

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 spewedy 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 Ms Noeleen Heyzer, Special Envoy of United Nations Secretary-General on Myanmar



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General on Myanmar Ms Noeleen Heyzer in Nay Pyi Taw on 17 August 2022.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Ms Noeleen Heyzer, Spe-

cial Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General on Myanmar, at the parlour of the SAC Chair-man's Office in Nay Pyi Taw yes-terday afternoon.

At the meeting, they ex-changed views on the promotion of trust and cooperation between Myanmar and the United Na-tions.

Also present at the meeting were Council Joint-Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin and U Ko Ko Hlaing and officials. — MNA

Exporters can use 35% of export earnings: CBM

THE Central Bank of Myan-mar-CBM issued a statement dated 16 August 2022 that ex-porters can use 35 per cent of export earnings or sell them to authorized dealers (banks) or make remittances to oth-ers. According to the CBM's notification dated 5 August 2022, exporters have to con-vert only 65 per cent of the hard currencies they earned into local currencies.

Therefore, they can uti-lize the remaining 35 per cent themselves or sell the dol-lars to AD or transfer them to others. Regarding foreign accounts of the exporters at the banks, 65 per cent of earn-ings must be exchanged for local currencies within one working day. Banks must conduct transactions off the remaining 35 per cent for the use of exporters or remittanc-es or selling. Those entities (company, institutions and in-dividuals) must sell them to ADs or use themselves within 30 days of earnings.

Exporters must seek ap-proval from the Foreign Ex-change Supervisory Commit-tee to carry out cross-border transactions. — NN/GNLM

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Those wishing to enter the legal fold can contact respective townships' Red Cross Society, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, Social Welfare Office and social welfare organizations authorized by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in addition to reception centres in border areas, Tatmadaw units and police stations

THE Information Team of the State Administration Council has released the statement inviting CDM staff, students and youths, who are in border areas and ethnic armed groups, they can contact the nearest reception centres in border areas, Tatmadaw units and police stations if they want to enter the legal fold and the government will guarantee their lives following the rules and regulations.

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. Meanwhile, 3,156 education workers, who were absent from their duties, another 1,009 people, who want to withdraw the cases that were opened against them, and 231 PDF members have contacted and returned to the legal fold. Then, they were given back to their parents systematically and the numbers of people who enter the legal fold and those who wish to are rising. Therefore, the government is making efforts to accept more numbers of those people.

The government opens reception centres in bor-

der areas for those who would like to return to the legal fold. Moreover, those wishing to return home can contact respective townships' Red Cross Society, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, Social Welfare Office and social welfare organizations authorized by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. It is guaranteed that they will be able to lead their daily lives peacefully.

Information Team
State Administration Council

Statement of Committee on Prevention of Six Grave Violations against Children in Armed Conflict

1. Myanmar's society traditionally and culturally cherishes children as treasure, an essential resource for future development of the society. Being a State party to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), Myanmar is devoted to ensure the principle of the best interest of the child and to guarantee the rights of the child in accordance with the relevant laws of Myanmar. In doing so, Myanmar has established the Committee on Prevention of Six Grave Violations against Children in Armed Conflict to better protect the children in case of armed conflict.

2. The first National Action Plan on the Prevention of Killing, Maiming and Sexual Violence against Children in Armed Conflict (2020-2021) was implemented for one year from 10 August 2020 to 10 August 2021.

3. According to the decision of the Coordination Meeting (1/2022) of the Committee, the National Action Plan on the Prevention of Killing, Maiming and Sexual Violence against Children in Armed Conflict (2022-2023) was submitted to and approved by the State Administration Council on 15 March 2022 for implementation.

4. Myanmar has been implementing the National Action Plan on the Prevention of Killing, Maiming and Sexual Violence against Children in Armed Conflict which was developed under the Myanmar Child Rights Law (2019), upholding the principle of the best interests of the child and the provisions enshrined in the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, to which Myanmar ratified in 2019. Survival-centred approach has been applying to maintain confidentiality and to ensure personal security of the victims of the grave violations.

5. Six Grave Violations against children include killing and maiming of children; recruitment and use of children as soldiers; sexual violence against children; abduction of children; attacks against schools and hospitals; and denial of humanitarian access for children.

6. The Committee on Prevention of Six Grave Violations against Children in Armed Conflict was established on 7 January 2019, and was reconstituted on 21 July 2021 with the State Administration Council's Order No 214/2021 to take effective measures to prevent the six grave violations against children. Furthermore, the Working Committee was formed on 19 November 2019 to
- support the tasks of the National Committee and was reconstituted by the State Administration Council on 21 July 2021 by its Order No 215/2021.

7. Regarding the prevention of recruitment and use of children in Armed Forces, the Government of Myanmar signed a Joint Action Plan with the United Nations' Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (UNCT-FMR) on 27 June 2012. The National Committee on Prevention of Underage Recruitment was formed under the chairmanship of the Union Minister for Defence on 20 April 2011 to prevent the recruitment and use of minors in the armed forces. The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement has been providing rehabilitation services to the discharged minors who were unintentionally recruited in the armed forces due to insufficient documentation to verify their age.

8. While the State Administration Council has been exerting its efforts with the establishment of the National Committees and Working Committees and the implementation of the respective National Action Plans to prevent grave violations against children, the terrorist groups are committing grave violations like killing and maiming, recruiting and using children and attacking against schools, hospitals and COVID-19 Vaccination Centres. According to the information of the Ministry of Home Affairs, the violence committed by these terrorist groups from 9 February 2021 to 30 June 2022 led to the death of 76 children, the grievous injury of 200 children, the death of 44 teachers, the serious injury of 46 teachers, the death of 11 healthcare providers and the severe injury of 16 healthcare providers. Besides, the attacks against 583 schools and education centres, 33 hospitals and clinics, and 42 COVID-19 Vaccination Centres were also committed by these terrorist groups.

9. The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has been protecting and fulfilling the rights of its children based on the four main pillars of the CRC Convention namely the right to survival, the right to development, the right to protection and the right to participation based on the principles of non-discrimination and of best interests of the child.

10. The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar will take punitive measures against whoever commits grave violations against children in armed conflict and violates the Myanmar Child Rights Law (2019) as per Myanmar's zero tolerance policy towards such heinous crimes.
- August 2022

Guardian for the benefit of the nation and the ethnic people

IN our country, we must continue to strengthen the “genuine and disciplined multi-party democratic system” which is the desire of the people. The Tatmadaw has firmly guaranteed a union based on a multi-party democratic system and a democratic federal system. According to Section 20 (f) of the basic principles of the constitution, Sections 6,7,8, which include three responsibilities, Tatmadaw has the main responsibility to protect the multi-party democratic system and the federal system. The Tatmadaw will carry out these responsibilities as a guardian for the benefit of the nation and the ethnic people.

(The excerpt from the speech made by Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting (2/2022) of the National Defence and Security Council of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on 31 July 2022.)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Law amending Myanmar Police Force Law State Administration Council Law No 42/2022

6th Waning of Wagaung 1384 ME
17 August 2022

THE State Administration Council has enacted this law under Section 419 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

1. This law shall be called the Law Amending the Myanmar Police Force Law.
2. Clause (1) of Sub-section (A), Section 46 of the Myanmar Police Force law shall be substituted as follows: -
“(1) Those who have reached the stipulated age of retirement shall have to retire and, on retirement, shall be entitled to superannuation pensions in accord with the stipulations.”

I hereby sign it under Section 419 of the Constitution.

Sd/Min Aung Hlaing
Senior General
Chairman
State Administration Council

Union Foreign Affairs Minister receives Special Envoy of United Nations Secretary-General on Myanmar



U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar received Ms Noeleen Heyzer, Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General on Myanmar at 10 am on 17 August 2022 at the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, the Union Minister stressed that it is necessary for the United Nations to constructively and pragmatically review its approach in its cooperation with Myanmar. He also explained the information on current developments in Myanmar.

The deputy minister and senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also attended the meeting. — MNA

The Special Envoy calls on the MoFA Union Minister yesterday.

Meeting held to comply with instructions given by SAC Chairman at coordination meeting on undertakings of Union government in H1 2022

THE meeting to comply with the instructions given by the Chairman of the State Administration Council (SAC) at the coordination meeting on undertakings of the Union government for first six months in 2022 was held at the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations (MIFER) Office No 1 in Nay Pyi

Taw yesterday morning, and at the meeting, the Union Minister U Aung Naing Oo explained the instructions of the SAC Chairman and guided to follow the future ministerial programme.

Then, based on the explanations of the Union Minister, heads of relevant departments reported their respective im-

plementation status and future plan.

Afterwards, the deputy minister discussed the review of current implementation status of the ministry and future ministerial programme in accordance with the instructions of the SAC Chairman at the coordination meeting on



MIFER holds the meeting to heed the SAC Chairman's instructions in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

undertakings of the Union government.

At the meeting, the deputy

minister and directors-general, directors from the state and regional offices attended. — MNA

SAC Information Team holds 19/2022 Press Conference

THE Information Team of the State Administration Council held the Press Conference 19/2022 at the Ministry of Information yesterday afternoon and Leader of the Information Team Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun, Member of the Union Election Commission U Khin Maung Oo, departmental spokespersons and representatives of departmental information teams replied to queries raised by the media.

First, Information Team Leader Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun explained the holding of the National Defence and Security Council Meeting 2/2022 by SAC on 31 July 2022, undertakings of the tasks by SAC in accord with the adopted roadmap and future plans, implementation of two national visions and two political visions by the Council, holding of the coordination meeting on accomplishments of the Union government attended by Union ministers, region and state chief ministers and chairmen of self-administered zones, trans-



The 19th Press Conference of the SAC Information Team is in progress yesterday.

fer of the fund from the State economic development fund, talks on peace issues between the Prime Minister and 10 ethnic armed organizations, situation of signing the agreements, preparations to hold the meeting for the second time, exercising of the foreign policy by Myanmar in line with the provisions of the Constitution, holding talks with

the Foreign Affairs Minister of the Russian Federation on his working visit to Myanmar with the Prime Minister, participation of the teams representing the Myanmar Tatmadaw in the International Army Game-2022 and the 3rd CISM World Cadet Games being held in the Russian Federation and winning of medals, situation to firmly stand

of Myanmar for China as a good neighbouring country, a strategic partner country and a good relationship country, matters related to the 55th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting and related meetings, arrangements for establishment of agriculture, livestock and industrial high schools affiliated at basic education high schools in 50 districts, and terror

acts of NUG and so-called PDF terrorist groups in some regions through PowerPoint presentation and video clips.

UEC member U Khin Maung Oo also clarified taking action against those who committed the voting frauds and malpractices in the 2020 general elections, progress in checking the ground population and statistics for ensuring correct voter lists, and undertakings of the UEC through PowerPoint Presentation.

Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun, U Khin Maung Oo and representatives of departmental information teams replied to queries raised by the media.

The press conference was attended by members of the SAC Information Team, representatives of ministries, officials from the Tatmadaw True News Information Team, guests, reporters from local news agencies, daily newspapers, local TV broadcasting stations, and local-based foreign news agencies. — MNA

Yangon Mayor supervises water flow enhancement works



THE Engineering Department of the Yangon City Development Committee is proceeding with the water pumping process for river outlets where water from creeks and drainages flows from the city into the Yangon River; Bago River and Ngamoeyeik Creek, in the time of heavy rains and high tide,

to prevent flooding in the city.

It has been raining heavily in Yangon starting from the morning of 16 to 17 August, reaching 6.69 inches of rainfall and 19.88 feet of tidal flow. Authorities have been managing to halt the urban flooding in Yangon and thus, Chairman of the YCDC Yangon

Mayor U Bo Htay inspected the condition of the water flow of the Kyunggyi canal, which goes along Lanmadaw Township and flows into the Ywathit creek, and the status of closing flood gates of the Ywathit creek outlet, located on Strand Road of the Mawtin Temporary Market Ward and pumping water into the Yangon River with a pump capable of sucking 190,000 gallons of water per hour. Then, he instructed to fulfil the needs.

Rain and thunderstorms are expected to continue along the coastal areas: Rakhine State, Ayeyawady Region, Yangon Region, Mon State and Kayin State because of the strong monsoon winds and the whirlwinds coming down from the East. Hence, authorities are taking various measures to prevent flooding in Yangon city. — MNA

54 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 17 August, total figure rises to 614,510

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **614,510** after **54** new cases were reported on 17 August 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **593,145** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached 19,437 after **one** died.

COVID-19 vaccine is being injected to those of priority groups in regions and states for prevention and control of the disease. Up to 16-8-2022, a total of **30,290,374** people above 18 have been vaccinated. A total of **6,243,209** people under 18 have been vaccinated. —MNA

Daily newspapers available online

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

News and Periodicals Enterprise

CURRENT
AFFAIRS

K400 bln including
agricultural fund are not
newly printed banknotes:
Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun



Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun answers the question of a reporter.

THE State economic promotion funds (K400 billion) including the fund for agriculture are from the COVID-19 fund and not the newly printed banknotes, said Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun, leader of the Information Team during the 19th Press Conference of the State Administration Council.

“It is a reserved fund. We use it effectively,” he said denying the false news of some news agencies that

the government printed new banknotes to grant funds.

The government set up K400 billion from the funds for the prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 aiming to revamp the country’s economy.

Officials also discuss using the remaining COVID-19 fund for other sectors, he added. — TWA/GNLM

Carrier vessel
burned at dockyard in
Kyimyindine Township

A fish carrier ship was burned while being repaired at the Aalatchaung Dockyard in Kyimyindine Township at 10 am on 17 August.

“The carrier vessel was burned from welding when it was docked for repair. The worker was welding inside before burning. We would know after checking where and how it started. Nobody hurts,” said a fire brigade member. The upper side of the ship was destroyed and the fire was controlled at 10:55 am, according to the Myanmar Fire Service Department. The MFSD said fire engines from Kyimyindine Township Fire Station, Satsan Fire Station, Kamayut Township Fire Station, and Seikkyi/Khanaungto Township Fire Station were dispatched to the scene to extinguish the fire.

Fire brigade members from Kyimyindine Township on the Yangon side carried water pumps, generators and pipes by boats to the other side while putting out the fire. — TWA/GNLM



Fire brigade members are seen putting out the fire.



Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun talks about the prices of basic foodstuffs.

Action to be taken
against basic food
price manipulators

ACTION will be taken against those who manipulate the basic food prices in the market, said Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun, leader of the Information Team of the State Administration Council during the 19th Press Conference.

“We take proper measures for palm oil and fuel oil. We have to take action if the market manipulation becomes worse. The basic food prices are based on a market-ori-

ented system and so serious actions can affect the trade and market share,” he said.

Some foodstuffs are produced in the country and only a limited amount is exported, he continued.

“During the State-level meeting held on Tuesday, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing instructed to sell the fuel oil as per fixed prices as traders manipulate the prices,” he added. — TWA/GNLM

Trading at Bayintnaung wholesale market sluggish amid floods

HEAVY rainfalls from midnight on 16 August to 7 am on 17 August hit Yangon Region and flash floods hit the Bayintnaung commodity warehouses, said Ko Aye Myint, a worker in Nguwah Street of the Bayintnaung market.

The car parking in front of the market is flooded. Floods caused a slower pace in the market and transport delays. I had to take a longer time when I returned to the Nyaungpinlay market from Bayintnaung, said U Yee, an onion and potato seller.

Heavy rain stopped at 7 am and continued at 8 am on 17 August, resulting in flash floods. Floods hit most of the small lanes in Bayintnaung, said Ko Tayote from Aungthapayae Street.

Floods wreaked havoc with the loading and unloading of cargoes and transport. It

disrupted warehouse logistics, said U Kyaw, a truck operator from Seinpan Street.

Trading at the Bayintnaung market is quite sluggish this month and flash floods exaggerated the market slowdown. The number of buyers significantly dropped on the morning of 17 August. Goods handling and warehouse logistics management are seen. Trade volume declined in the market, said Ko Myint Thein from an onion depot on Yetama Street.

The backstreets of the Bayintnaung Warehouse were flooded, said Ko Thein from Tamar Street.

The Bayintnaung wholesale centre is vulnerable to flooding triggered by heavy rainfalls. Although it has taken flood risk management and the floor level has risen, some areas still face flood impacts.

Onion, potato and garlic prices are rising daily. However, I had a chance to buy it at fairer prices, said Ko Chit, a trader.

The freight forwarding service industry was unexpectedly hampered by heavy rainfalls and flash floods on 17 August. — TWA/GNLM



Flash floods hit warehouses and backstreets at the Bayintnaung market.



CRIME NEWS

Over K1.46 billion worth of illegal drugs seized in Kengtung



An arrestee is pictured along with seized drugs and a motorbike.

THE Myanmar Police Force stated that over K1.46 billion worth of Ice (Methamphetamine) weighing 120 kilogrammes and Ketamine weighing 59 kilogrammes were confiscated in Kengtung, Shan State (East).

On 15 August early morning, a combined team comprising Anti-Drug Police Force members inspected a motorcycle driven

by Sai Tit at the Kengphaung Checkpoint which is located at the entrance of Kengtung City, Shan State (East), according to the information. Ketamine weighing 53 kilogrammes and Ice (Methamphetamine) weighing 14 kilogrammes were seized from him.

According to the inspection, the team successfully arrested

the suspects: Sai Sam, son of U Htam Wone in possession of a motorcycle and 40 kilogrammes of Ice (Methamphetamine), in front of the Kengtung Customs office, and Sai Sam, son of U Phya Wone in possession of a motorbike, 66 kilogrammes of Ice (Methamphetamine) and six kilogrammes of Ketamine, at the Exit Toll Gate of Kengtung respectively.

Thus, a total of 120 kilogrammes of Ice (Methamphetamine) and 59 kilogrammes of Ketamine, worth over K1.46 billion were made from the arrest. On the report of the subsequent investigation, stimulant drugs were planned to carry from Mongpyin to Tachilek Township.

The suspects are being prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law and police are further investigating, stated the MPF. — MNA

Drugs seized in Shwepyitha, Pinlaung, Tachilek townships

A combined inspection team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force searched a Honda Fit vehicle driven by Kyaw Swar accompanied by Ma Khin La Pyae Win on No 4 Main Road, Industrial Zone 1 ward in Shwepyitha Township at 2:50 pm on 15 August. The team nabbed 2,000 of stimulant tablets from them. Similarly, the team consisting of the Anti-Drug Special Task Force searched a Hijet car driven by Kun San Yu accompanied by Kun Maung Thein on the Pinlaung-Nay Pyi Taw Road, Hteinpin village-tract in Pinlaung Township at 12 noon on the same day.

The team confiscated 82,000 stimulant tablets from them. And the Anti-Drug Police Force of Tachilek Township searched Ma Nang San Lin and Ma Nang Nun Aung, who are on suspicion at a restaurant in Sang Sai B ward, Tachilek Township at 6:10 pm.

The team seized 0.7 kilogramme of Happy Water and a motorcycle and as an investigation result, the team captured Sai Naw Hlaing and Sai Naw Mhaing, who are drug dealers with a Crown vehicle at the same restaurant at 6:30 pm.

They are prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, the Myanmar Police Force stated. — MNA

Illegal timbers, raw chemicals, consumer goods, foodstuffs, construction materials, jade jewellery and vehicles confiscated



Officials check illegal teak logs in Bago 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 Yangon Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force, an on-duty team led by the Customs Department made inspections on 13 August, according to information.

Officials confiscated K21,009,280 worth of raw chemicals and consumer goods that exceeded the Import Declaration (ID) from a Mitsubishi Fuso car with a semi-trailer (approx-

mately K40 million) on the Yangon-Mandalay Road. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

In addition, an inspection team conducted inspections under the management of the Mandalay Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force on 15 August.

They captured K87,009,000 worth of alcohol and cigarettes without official documents from two trucks (approximately K16 million) on the Taunggyi-Aungban-Ywangan-Hanmyitmo Road and the action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Similarly, an on-duty team at the Mayanchaung Permanent Checkpoint nabbed a total of 1,004 cartons of tiles worth K4,490,527 and 40 rolls of adhesive tapes worth K2,960,000 that exceeded the Import Declaration (ID) from a vehicle heading from Myawady to Yangon. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

On 16 August, a combined patrol team at the Yebu Permanent Checkpoint impounded suspected jade jewellery worth K34,550,000 without official documents from a Toyota HiAce car (approximately K9 million) heading from Lashio to Muse township. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

On 17 August, officials conducted inspections under the supervision of the Bago Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force and seized a total of 22.6920 tonnes of illegal teak and hardwood worth K12,687,196 in the Bago and Toungoo districts. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

Similarly, a team led by the Myanmar Police Force confis-

cated an unregistered Toyota Wish car (approximately K3 million) near Myohla village of Paungdale town and the action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

Therefore, 20 arrests estimated at K230,706,003 were made on four consecutive days from 14 to 17 August, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA



Confiscated items in Mandalay Region.

LOCAL BUSINESS

High-grade Shwebo Pawsan rice prices up by K24,000 per bag within six weeks

PRICES of high-grade Pawsan rice variety from Shwebo Township rose by K24,000 per bag in domestic markets.

On 1 July, high-grade Pawsan prices moved in the range between K49,000 and K66,000 per bag, while low-grade rice prices stood at K32,000 and K41,000 per bag.

On 16 August, the prices rose to K60,000-90,000 per bag for high-grade rice varieties and K35,500-50,000 per bag for low-grade rice varieties.

The figures indicated an increase of K9,000-24,000 per bag for high-grade rice varieties. The prices of low-grade rice varieties were up by K3,500-7,500 per bag.

Kyat depreciation against foreign currencies raised the prices of rice. The rice market

experiences panic buying due to consumers' concerns over the shortage of rice.

The Myanmar Rice Federation, Myanmar Rice Producers and Growers Association, Myanmar Rice Millers Association, and traders and brokers engaged in the Wahdan Rice Wholesale Centre and Bayintnaung Rice Wholesale Centre are working together on a scheme to offer rice at a reasonable price to the consumers at the Wahdan Rice Wholesale Centre starting from 3 August.

The prices will stand at K75,000-77,000 per bag of Shwebo Pawsan, K52,000-55,000 per bag of Ayeyawady Pawsan, K55,000-60,000 per bag of Kyapyan, and K35,000-37,000 per bag of short-matured rice varieties



Prices of high-grade Pawsan rice variety from Shwebo Township rose by K24,000 per bag in domestic markets. Rice bags are loaded onto the lorry.

(90 days) at the Wahdan Rice Wholesale Centre.

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

Chickpea, potato prices hit three-year high

THE prices of chickpea and potatoes reached the highest in three years. On 17 August 2022, wholesale prices of chickpea in Yangon markets touched a high of K4,000-4,200 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) and potatoes fetched K1,400-2,400 per viss depending on the varieties. The current market price is the highest compared to the corresponding periods of the past two years, said Ko Phyo, a trader who delivers goods to the delta region.

On 17 August 2021, chickpea was priced at K2,600-2,700 per viss and potatoes were worth K350-1,100 per viss. On 17 August 2020, the prices stood at K1,700-1,750 per viss of chickpea and K400-650 per viss of potato.

The local consumption of chickpea and potatoes is high. They are one of the key ingredients in Myanmar dishes, said Daw Moe Moe, a housewife.

I have to raise the potato curry price along with other meat curry prices as potato prices hit K2,000 per viss, said Daw San, a roadside food vendor.

Some substitute the pea for chickpea, said Ko Yan, a seller of pulses in Bayintnaung market.

The wholesale price of chickpea stayed below K2,000 per viss as of September 2020. The price



Potatoes and chickpeas are pictured being displayed in the market.

rose to K2,250 per viss in the last four months of 2000.

In 2021, wholesale chickpea prices climbed to K2,750 per viss.

In early 2022, the price jumped to over K3,000 per viss in early 2022. The price rocketed to K4,000 per viss in mid-August 2022. The chickpeas are mostly supplied by Pyay areas, said Ko Thein, a seller from the Bayintnaung market. The price in August 2022 is two times higher than the price recorded in 2020.

The potato price was mostly below K1,000 per viss in 2020. The highest price in 2020

is K1,450 per viss on 23 September, said Ko Aung, a potato seller from the Nyaungpinlay Market.

The potato price reached the lowest of K700 in early 2021 and the highest of K2,450 per viss in late 2021. The potato was priced at K2,400 on 17 August 2022 in the wholesale market. It is the maximized price against the same periods of 2020 and 2021, said Ko Aung.

High price benefits growers yet consumers are hurting from rising food prices, Ko Nang, a market observer pointed out. — TWA/GNLM

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

Advertise with us/ Hot Line : 09974424848

Help develop the State economy to uplift the socioeconomic status of the people

THE government set up a separate fund worth K400 billion taken over from the National Natural Disaster Management Fund for spending on the economic development of the nation. In doing so, the whole countries including regions and states need to work in concert for promoting the socio-economy of the people and their economy.

The state economy was damaged by the outbreak of Covid-19 in previous years. Moreover, internal and external forces politically at-

The other day, the Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister allotted the State economic promotion fund to relevant Union ministries, regions and states and self-administered zones respectively for the enhancement of the socioeconomic status of the people in the implementation of the projects. State endeavours should be welcomed.

aster Management Fund will be better than in the past.

Manufacturing of products is crucial in the State economic sector: As Myanmar is producing goods based on agriculture and livestock farms, fulfilling the needs of such sectors will help surge the State economy. In this regard, it is necessary to boast of growing summer rice and green gram as it can contribute much to cultivating summer rice and cold season crops for having a quick win in a short time. Hence, the handover of the fund will be very useful for the cultivation.

As a result, job opportunities can be created in the agriculture and livestock sectors. Moreover, farmers who would like to grow crops as they expected may invest money in other sectors. Generating many jobs will help earn income for farmers, contributing much to rising domestic demand and supply. As such, the people will have fruits of socioeconomic life.

The other day, the Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister allotted the State economic promotion fund to relevant Union ministries, regions and states and self-administered zones respectively for the enhancement of the socioeconomic status of the people in the implementation of the projects. State endeavours should be welcomed.

SOONER or later most readers will begin their reading after they have learnt to read well. Reading is beloved in various parts of the world, especially in developed countries. Then, 'why the people from those countries read a lot' has turned into a big question. In fact, reading gives readers pleasure, knowledge, wisdom, and even life. People like to get happiness, information, ideas, and opinions from reading books, newspapers or whatever easily without lots of costs, time, and energy. Readers to the core could do anything new more creatively, more effectively, and more efficiently than those who might have read very little. Thus, a nation crowded with reader citizens is improving better bit by bit, its standard of living included. Reading for life means that reading would be as essential as daily food and drink, or a must for everyday living.

My reader life began with Sayadaw Ashin Sandadika's many books, which were bought by Sayama Daw Yin Thein from Pathein as Dhamma gifts. His books fitfully include a few of the jataka tales which mean the 550 stories of Buddha-to-be. Although those books on Dhamma look boring to death for a young reader, the tales are absolutely interesting indeed for me and impart some moral lessons. In addition, Sayadaw's writing is simple and clear enough to understand. Among the books written by him, 'Lotaya-hnalonethar' (လုံတော့နုလုံသော) is my favourite as well as my memorable book. After reading several of his books, I picked up and tried to read Sayadaw U Jotika's ones. Sad to say it seems to be beyond me what Sayadaw means that he wants to say. That is, his thoughts on Buddha's Dhamma are so serious that an average reader cannot absorb them very

well. After him, Thutaythi Bhone Myint Thway became my favourite writer. His writings exerted a strong influence on me until I was nicknamed 'Bhaddanta' which is the title of an abbot in Buddhism. After that, it was Pi Moe Hnin who taught me to try thinking wide big after reading is done.

To my way of thinking, digested reading means knowing the subject inside out. To be said better, digested reading comprises reciting the subject partly or from beginning to end, knowing which subject has been written on what page by whom by heart, seeing the purpose, writing style, choice words, and creative thinking of the subject, repeating the subject, and speaking out one's own second thoughts on the subject. Of course, digested reading is just a kind of habit and therefore, such reading could not possibly be taught but practised by any mentor. Not every book, particularly light reading only for pleasure, should be finished through digested reading. If a reader cannot, however, do a type of digested reading over the subject matter, he will not be supposed to be the very reader except he is an amateur reader. That is why a reader must be able to get digested reading done if he wants to lead a true reader's life.

So, how to digest reading will be presented here as far as I am concerned. Firstly, by the time a book is read, readers should read the whole book, not excluding the writer's foreword, thanks, others' remarks, and further reading if they are included in the book. Such things may help the readers show the right way to read a book. Secondly, readers ought to take a look at the contents page. From the contents, they can not only guess which subject matter might be written in a book but also skim



The effects of reading, or more specifically, digested reading, are enormous. ILLUSTRATION: FREEPIK

the section of the book that they would like to read first because they do not have enough time for reading if need be. It does not matter to readers how fast their reading speeds are, but they must scan the entire book if and when the time and circumstance allow them to do that. Readers usually keep repeating a good read for them over and over, but not some read like classics, nice even. That should not be so, actually. Old as classics are, they managed to pass through ages, did they? Thirdly, hence, any great book needs to be

read again and again by readers whether they like it or not. Lastly, there has to be logic, memory, convergent or divergent thinking, imitation, and practice in the art of digested reading.

For starters of reading, I shall continue to recommend 12 excellent books in the Myanmar Language. The first two books are all about how to read: 'Laminko-htayanpauk-ma-kyichin' (လမ်းကိုထပ်ပေါက်မှကြည့်ခြင်း) by Mya Thann Tint, and 'Ngadoh-baloe-saphatk-yatalae' (ငါတို့ဘာလို့စာဖတ်ကြ

တာလဲ) by Lu Thaman. Another five books in the collection of stories are as follows: 'Payayahna' (ပါရယာန) by Shin Maha Thilawuntha, 'Thaykane sitetaenya' (သောကိန်းဆိုက်တဲ့ည) translated by Aung Thinn, 'Khitsanponepyinmyar' (ခေတ်စမ်းပုံပြင်များ) edited by U Pe Maung Tin, 'Kotwewuthumyar' (ကိုယ်တွေ့ဝတ္ထုများ) by U Phoe Kyar, and 'Hamilaytahte' (တစ်လေးတစ်ထည်) by Nu Nu Yi Inwa. The other five books of novels are in the following: 'Pyoneywaele-gadokhandawmupa Yeywaele-gadokhandawmu-

pa' (မြိုး၍လည်းကန့်တော့ခံတော်မူပါ) by Nu Nu Yi Inwa, 'Ma Ein Kan' (မအိမ်ကံ) by Khin Khin Htoo, 'Htetmyattae-dathwarpawka-chomyamyaparyaysat' (ထက်မြက်တဲ့မီးသွားပေါ်ကချိုမြိန်ပျားရည်စက်) by Nyi Pu Lay, 'Naw Yin Mgwé' (နော်ရင့်မွေ့) by Mya Thanda, and 'Amat-taya' (အမှတ်တရ) by Ju. All the above-mentioned books are the ones I have never forgotten, and also the books for digested reading.

Speaking as a reader, it is natural if more digested reading

is carried out in books written in foreign languages. The best idea for this is to bury ourselves in our books and to study intensively. The less achievement in a learned foreign language anyone has got, the more attention he will pay to that language. Here, I would like to mention it only as an aside that any book in a foreign language we are reading must run our literacy very close to the level. Otherwise, we shall get sick as a parrot of digested reading in any other foreign languages at the double.

Like digested reading in some foreign languages, rare book resources are one of the major problems which readers are always confronting. There are no books available or no libraries where they can get very quickly to their place to live. At that time, they tend to replace radios, TVs, online learning, literary talks or discussion groups with books, but it looks like they kept away from digested reading as well. If possible, readers had better buy and collect as many books as on hand for digested reading. Perhaps reading with books does not seem expensive, long, and wasted; it can certainly be repeated, if necessary, too.

There did significantly turn up one writer who could do digested reading in the field of Myanmar literature. His name was Aung Thinn. He named his non de plume his real name only. He is still famous as a great thinker among adolescent readers. Those readers include myself. I have been deeply influenced by his articles till I do not enjoy other writers' articles any longer. I find that Saya almost always describes someone else's popular thoughts at the beginning of his articles, and then he writes his own thoughts logically in the end. Because of him, I have always accepted the definition that

wisdom ('Pinnya' in Pali) is just reasoning in the light of Thein-gathu-Thamee's Tablet. If truth is known, only the writers that are very digestedly read in language and literature will be able to write out a vastly superior read.

The effects of reading, or more specifically, digested reading, are enormous. Everyone that has already felt them, needless to say, knows the reading effect pretty well. Every now and then the digested-reading effect drives a reader to turn into a writer. Moreover, this effect provides students with readiness to pursue their studies, have a discussion about subjects, or conduct a presentation of something new for another study. It is possible for a reader with digested reading to be a fast reader or literary critic, at the very least. A digesting reader can even predict that a book is written by whom with a brief glance at its writer's writing.

To sum up, digested reading also says a sort of effective and efficient reading. That digested reading might contain silent reading and read aloud. Maybe silent reading is good for most readers and authors, maybe reading aloud for writers of poetry in particular. Digested reading is often connected with a higher frequency of reading than the time taken. I believe that it will take at least 15 minutes to get digested reading every day on end. The daily maximum time of reading should be up to 1 hour long. If this time is over, it is anything but good in that a reader wastes time in reading, pure and simple. For digested reading, we can pick and choose the only writer's writings, one period's writings, the individual subject matter, or a single style of writing. Read well!

Over 100,000 foreign visitors to Japan in July for 4th month in row

THE number of foreign arrivals in Japan in July exceeded 100,000 for the fourth straight month following the easing of COVID-19 border control measures in a bid to shore up the tepid economy, official data showed Wednesday.

The foreign arrivals, which totalled 144,500 last month, were 2.8 times higher than those in July

2021. But it represented a 95.2 per cent plunge from the same month in the pre-pandemic year of 2019, according to the Japan National Tourism Organization.

While Japan reopened its doors to small-scale tours in June, the number of foreign tourists to the country remained low at 7,903 the following month.

It is believed the complicated

procedures required to visit the nation, such as acquiring a negative coronavirus test result and a visa, are part of the reasons for the low number of tourists.

The number of people who have applied for entry into Japan for tourism purposes for the period from Aug. 12 to 31 was 7,412, the organization said.

The travel application figures

for September and for October onwards stand at 4,730 and 2,810, respectively, with the majority from South Korea.

By country, the largest number of total foreign arrivals to Japan in July was from Viet Nam at 22,700, South Korea at 20,400 and China at 14,800, with most likely to have come as technical interns, businesspeople or international

students.

Meanwhile, the number of Japanese who went overseas in July numbered 277,900, which was 6.4 times higher compared to the same month in 2021. The figure marked an 83.3 per cent drop from the same month in 2019.

Domestic travel consumption by Japanese nationals amounted to 4.4 trillion yen (\$32.8 billion) for

the three months through June, 2.4 times higher than that in the same quarter in 2021, although it was down 26.3 per cent from the same period for 2019.

Demand for travel has rebounded as government COVID-19 restrictions on people's movements have been lifted recently.

SOURCE: Kyodo



Passengers arrive at New Chitose Airport in Hokkaido, northern Japan, on 17 July 2022 as international flights resumed after a 28-month hiatus. PHOTO: KYODO

UK disputes lack of access to EU science research programmes

BRITAIN has launched dispute procedures with the European Union over its exclusion from the bloc’s scientific research programmes, using a mechanism set out in a post-Brexit deal.

This is the first such dispute launched by the UK against the EU since Brexit.

The British government said in a statement late Tuesday that it has launched action

“set out in the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) to resolve disputes between the UK and EU”.

The action was taken over “persistent delays” to its access to EU science programmes, it said.

It added that the UK had negotiated access to these programmes in 2020 but the EU “has still refused to finalize” its inclusion in academic pro-

grammes.

It said it remained excluded from the bloc’s flagship Horizon Europe programme that funds research, nuclear regulator Euratom and Copernicus satellite monitoring group.

The UK government said it has written to the European Commission to launch dispute resolution proceedings and expects “constructive engagement”.— AFP



Britain has launched dispute procedures with the European Union over its exclusion from the bloc’s scientific research programmes, using a mechanism set out in a post-Brexit deal. **PHOTO: AFP**

Tibetan Plateau water stores under threat: study



A Fuxing bullet train runs on the Lhasa-Nyingchi railway during a trial operation in Shannan, southwest China’s Tibet Autonomous Region, 16 June 2021. **PHOTO: XINHUA/CHOGO**

THE Tibetan Plateau will experience significant water loss this century due to global warming, according to research published Monday that warns of severe supply stress in a climate change “hotspot”.

The reservoirs of the Ti-

betan Plateau, which covers much of southern China and northern India, are fed by monsoons and currently supply most of the water demand for nearly two billion people.

But the plateau’s complex terrain has made it difficult

for scientists to predict how warming temperatures and altered weather patterns linked to climate change will affect the region’s water stores.

Researchers based in China and the United States used satellite-based measurements to determine the net change in water and ice mass over the past two decades.

They added in direct measurements of glaciers, lakes and sub-surface water levels to estimate changes in the water mass, then used a machine learning technique to predict storage changes under scenarios such as higher air temperature and reduced cloud cover.

They found that due to an increasingly warm and wet climate, the Tibetan Plateau has lost just over 10 billion tonnes of water a year since 2002.— AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Graphene can efficiently extract gold from electronic waste: study

A study conducted by Chinese researchers and their British counterparts has recently found that reduced graphene oxide can extract gold from electronic waste with high efficiency. As a good conductor of electricity, gold is widely used in electronic products, so the recovery of gold resources from electronic waste is of great importance. However, it remains challenging to achieve high extraction capacity and precise selectivity if only a trace amount of gold is mixed with other metallic elements.— Xinhua

Space mission shows Earth’s water may be from asteroids: study

WATER may have been brought to Earth by asteroids from the outer edges of the solar system, scientists said after analyzing rare samples collected on a six-year Japanese space mission.

In a quest to shed light on the origins of life and the formation of the universe, researchers are scrutinizing material brought back to earth in 2020 from the asteroid Ryugu. The 5.4 grammes (0.2 ounces) of rocks and dust were gathered by a Japanese space probe, called Hayabusa-2, that landed on the celestial body and fired an “impactor” into its surface. Studies on the material are beginning to be published, and in June, one group of researchers said they had found organic material which showed that some of the building blocks of life on Earth, amino acids, may have been formed in space.— AFP

Amazon tribe go behind the camera in Nat Geo film ‘The Territory’

WHEN Covid-19 reached Brazil’s Amazon, and an indigenous tribe sealed off its borders, director Alex Pritz found an innovative way to finish his documentary — he handed the cameras over to the Uru-eu-wau-wau themselves.

“The Territory”, to be released by National Geographic on Friday, follows the plight of some 200 hunter-gatherers who live in a protected area of rainfor-

est, surrounded and encroached upon by aggressive and illegal settlers, farmers and loggers.

While shown in the movie dressed in traditional garb and honouring ancient customs, the Uru-eu-wau-wau and their young leader Bitate — the film’s main subject — were more than happy to use modern technology to fight back.

“When Covid happened, Bi-

tate made the really bold decision to say ‘Okay, no more journalists coming into our territory, no more filmmakers, no more Alex, no more documentary crew, nobody,’” said Pritz.

“We had to have a conversation with him like, ‘Okay, are we done with the film? Do we have everything we need? Is there more? Should we start editing?’”— AFP



Fewer than 200 members remain of the Uru-eu-wau-wau tribe, traditionally hunter-gatherers who live in a protected area of Brazil’s Amazon rainforest, surrounded and encroached upon by aggressive and illegal settlers, farmers and loggers. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

COVID-19 SITUATION UPDATE



Employees work at online market Smile Shop in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 21 Dec 2021. **PHOTO: XINHUA/WU CHANGWEI**

COVID-19 pandemic accelerates digital transformation in Cambodia: PM

CAMBODIAN Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen said here on Wednesday that the COVID-19 pandemic in the last two years has sped up digital transformation in the Southeast Asian country.

Speaking at a graduation ceremony at the University of Puthisastra based in Phnom Penh, Hun Sen said the pandemic has led to a tremendous surge in e-commerce, mobile payment

and online learning.

“Now, everything has moved online, even a taxi service. The pandemic crisis has created opportunities for Cambodia to maximize the benefits of digitalization,” he said.

“Not less than 3 million out of our country’s nearly 4 million students had studied online during the pandemic in the last two years,” he added.

Hun Sen said the COVID-19

crisis has also given rise to the e-government, saying that digital communication is faster, safer and more effective than traditional communication, especially in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The prime minister reiterated that he would not appoint any senior officials who have no knowledge of using smartphones and applications such as WhatsApp, and Zoom.—Xinhua

MONKEYPOX OUTBREAK

Ecuador’s monkeypox cases climb to 19

ECUADOR has detected three new cases of monkeypox, bringing the total number of national cases to 19, Minister of Public Health Jose Ruales said Tuesday.

“We have no hospitalized or severe cases. All are mildly ill and under home supervision while we conduct contact tracing,” the official said at a press conference. One of the latest cases involves a 29-year-old woman who became the first female to come down with the viral disease in the South American country, Ruales said.—Xinhua

Malta receives first shipment of monkeypox vaccine

MALTA has received its first consignment of the monkeypox vaccine through a joint procurement mechanism of the European Union (EU), Health Minister Chris Fearn said on Tuesday. In a post on Twitter, he said the primary contacts of confirmed monkeypox cases would be the first to get vaccinated. Two doses are necessary for a full vaccination.—Xinhua

MEASLES OUTBREAK IN AFRICA

More than 150 children dead in Zimbabwe measles outbreak

A measles outbreak in Zimbabwe has killed at least 157 children, with more than 2,000 infections reported across the country, the government said on Tuesday.

Cases have been growing rapidly in the southern African nation since authorities said the first infection was logged earlier this month, with reported deaths almost doubling in less than a week.

“As of 15 August the cumulative figures across the country has risen to 2,056 cases and 157 deaths,” Information Minister Monica Mutsvangwa said briefing journalists after a weekly cabinet meeting.

Mutsvangwa said the government was going to step up vaccinations, and has invoked special legislation allowing it to draw money from the national disaster fund “to deal with the emergency”.

She said the government was to engage with traditional and faith leaders to garner their support with the vaccination campaign, adding all victims were not vaccinated.

The health ministry has previously blamed the outbreak on church sect gatherings. The measles virus attacks mainly children with the most serious complications including blindness, brain swelling, diarrhoea and severe respiratory infections.—AFP

Iran reports 1st monkeypox case

IRAN has reported its first monkeypox case, official news agency IRNA quoted a health official as saying on Tuesday. Health Ministry spokesman Pedram Pakain said the patient is a 32-year-old woman, whose infection was detected through her skin lesions, according to IRNA. The patient is from the southwestern city of Ahvaz and has been quarantined at her home, he noted. The disease does not have a high mortality rate and can be treated, Pakain said, adding those who have been vaccinated against smallpox are immune to monkeypox to a great extent.—Xinhua



People wearing face masks walk on a street in Tonekabon, northern Iran, 6 Dec 2020. **PHOTO: XINHUA/AHMAD HALABISAZ/FILE**

South Africa reports fourth monkeypox case, vowing to take measures against spreading

SOUTH African Health Minister Joe Phaahla on Monday confirmed that the country had detected the fourth monkeypox case and vowed that the government would take measures to prevent its spreading.

He is expected to hold a media briefing Friday to explain how the national health department is responding to the increasing cases of monkeypox in the country.

Foster Mohale, the department spokesperson, said in an

interview with Xinhua that the department was concerned about the increasing number of monkeypox cases, but stressed there was no need to panic. According to him, a 28-year-old man from the Western Cape province has been identified as the fourth case of monkeypox. The patient returned to South Africa from Spain in the second week of August. “A polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test was performed in a private pathology laboratory. The samples were submitted to the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) for sequencing analysis,” Mohale said, noting the health department has instituted public health response measures including contact tracing to prevent the spreading of the monkeypox virus.—Xinhua



People enjoy a boat trip in Cape Town, South Africa, 30 June 2021. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

ECONOMY
WORLD

Nuclear war between US
and Russia could starve 5 bil.
people: study

A nuclear war between the United States and Russia could put over five billion people in danger of starving to death due to climate disruptions caused by the use of the devastating weapons, a study published in British science journal Nature Food showed Monday.

The study highlighted the impact of massive amounts of soot that would likely be thrown into the atmosphere as a result of firestorms triggered by the dropping of nuclear bombs on cities and industrial areas. It indicated that such particles would spread through the atmosphere and result in a rapid cooling of the planet.

Soot injections totalling more than five million tonnes would lead to “mass food shortages, and livestock and aquatic food production would be unable to compensate for reduced crop output, in almost all countries,” said the team that carried out the study, including Lili Xia of Rutgers university in the United



A Russian Yars intercontinental ballistic missile launcher parades through Red Square during the Victory Day military parade in central Moscow on May 9 2022. PHOTO: ALEXANDER NEMENOV/AFP

States.

“In conclusion, the reduced light, global cooling and likely trade restrictions after nuclear wars would be a global catastrophe for food security,” it said, noting that the research underlines “the importance of global cooperation in preventing nuclear war”.

The study examined the var-

ying impacts of six war scenarios estimated to generate up to 150 million tonnes of soot. A potential nuclear war between the United States and its allies against Russia was taken to be the worst case, as the countries that would be involved collectively possess more than 90 per cent of the global nuclear arsenal.—Kyodo

Cuba authorizes foreign
investment in wholesale, retail



Tourists walk along a boulevard in Varadero, Matanzas province, Cuba, on 28 February 2022. PHOTO: YAMIL LAGE / AFP

THE Cuban government has announced it will allow foreign investment in domestic wholesale and retail trade for the first time in 60 years, in a move aimed at addressing critical shortages of goods.

The decision could also give a boost to local industry, all without relinquishing state control over foreign trade.

“Foreign investment in wholesale and retail trade, with state regulation, will allow the

expansion and diversification of supply to the population and will contribute to the recovery of domestic industry,” Economy Minister Alejandro Gil tweeted Tuesday, expanding on an announcement made late the previous night.

Foreign investors would be allowed to fully own Cuban wholesalers for the first time since Fidel Castro’s 1959 revolution, while retailers could enter into public-private ventures, according to deputy trade minister Ana Gonzalez Fraga.

Until now, foreign investment has been allowed only in the domestic production of goods and in the services sector.

The move to open up a sector hitherto controlled by the communist government is indicative of the difficulty state companies face in accessing foreign currency and raw materials.—AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Israel arrests suspects in crypto fraud
against French treasury

SEVERAL suspects have been detained in Israel in connection with a multi-million dollar cryptocurrency money laundering scheme to defraud the French treasury, police said on Monday.

Investigation focused “on the suspicion of a large-scale fraud against the state treasury in France that was carried out from Israel,” an Israeli police statement said.

It allegedly involved the theft of millions of shekels “and the laundering of the funds by converting them to cryptocurrency,” the statement said. Three people were arrested and others were detained for questioning on suspicion of money laundering and tax offences, according to the police, who did not detail the suspects’ identities.—AFP

UK unemployment stable, as inflation
slams wages: data

BRITAIN’S unemployment rate remains close to 50-year lows, but wage values are falling at a record pace with inflation at the highest level in decades, official data showed Tuesday.

Unemployment stood at 3.8 per cent in the three months to the end of June, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said in a statement.

This was unchanged compared with the three months to the end of May.—AFP

Australian environmental
party to introduce bill to close
state coal plants by 2030

AUSTRALIA’S environmentally forward political party, the Greens, is set to introduce a bill that would close the three remaining coal plants in the state of Victoria by 2030. The Energy Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, announced on Monday, would bring forward the timeline for the closure of the state’s remaining coal plants.

“The writing is on the wall for Victoria’s brown coal plants which burn Australia’s most polluting coal,” said Victorian Greens acting climate spokesperson Tim Read. “They’re old,

unreliable and spew toxic pollution that is harming the health of local communities.”

The Greens remain a minor party in Australian politics. However, a swing of voters in the nation’s May federal election has increased their influence on Australia’s politics. The three coal plants are currently scheduled to close as late as 2048. The Greens said this is at odds with projections made by the United Nations that tackling the climate crisis would require the closure of all coal power stations by 2030.—Xinhua



The Energy Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, announced on Monday, would bring forward the timeline for the closure of the state’s remaining coal plants. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/AFP/FILE

US housing starts
plunge in July amid
rising rates, elevated
inflation

GOVERNMENT data released Tuesday showed that US housing starts in July plunged by 9.6 per cent, indicating a cooling housing market amid rising rates and elevated inflation.

Housing starts declined to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.446 million in July, which is 8.1 per cent below the July 2021 rate of 1.573 million, according to a report released by the US Census Bureau, part of the Commerce Department.

The latest data marks the weakest pace since early 2021.

Single-family starts, in particular, slumped 10.1 per cent and are down 2.1 per cent on a

year-to-date basis. This is the lowest reading for single-family home building since June 2020.

“Housing demand continues to weaken on higher interest rates while on the supply side builders continue to grapple with higher construction costs,” Jerry Konter, chairman of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), said in a statement

“Builders are reporting weakening traffic as housing affordability declines,” said Konter.

In May, housing starts plunged by 13.5 per cent to reach an annual rate of 1.562 million. In June, the figure rebounded slightly to 1.599 million.—Xinhua



Construction workers are seen outside a new house being built in Monterey Park, California.

PHOTO: FREDERIC J. BROWN/AFP

Singapore’s NODX grows by
7% on year in July

SINGAPORE’S non-oil domestic exports (NODX) rose by 7 per cent year on year in July, following a revised 8.5 per cent growth in June, Enterprise Singapore, a government agency, reported on Wednesday.

It is the 20th consecutive month for Singapore’s NODX to grow year on year.

In a breakdown, the electronic NODX increased by 10.3 per cent year on year in July, following a 4.1 per cent increase in June. The non-electronic NODX grew by 6.1 per cent year on year in July, compared to a 10 per cent rise in the previous month.

On a month-on-month seasonally adjusted basis, Singapore’s NODX increased by 1.4 per cent in July to 17.8 billion Singapore dollars (12.9 billion

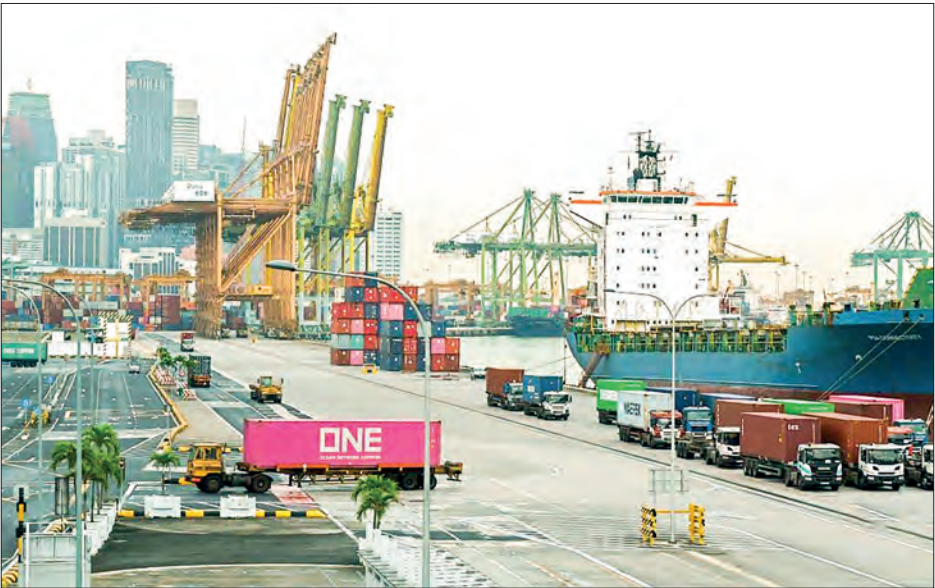


Photo taken on 3 June 2022 shows a container terminal in Singapore. Singapore’s non-oil domestic exports (NODX) rose by 7 per cent year on year in July, following a revised 8.5 per cent growth in June. PHOTO: THEN CHIH WEY/XINHUA

US dollars), after the previous month saw a 3.2 per cent growth.

Singapore’s non-oil re-exports (NORX) grew by 25.2 per cent year on

year in July, following a 31.4 per cent growth in the previous month. Both electronic and non-electronic NORX saw an increase.

Singapore’s oil domestic exports expanded by 97.1 per cent year on year in July, compared to a 66.2 per cent growth in June.—Xinhua

Tokyo restaurant chain withdraws appeal for
COVID restrictions case

A Tokyo-based restaurant chain operator revealed Tuesday it had withdrawn an appeal for a court case in which it demanded damages against the Tokyo metropolitan government for ordering business hours be reduced during the coronavirus pandemic.

The announcement by Global Dining Inc., which runs dozens of restaurants, finalizes the ruling in May by the Tokyo District Court outlining that the order had been illegal, but that Tokyo Gov. Koike Yuriko, who had made the order, was not at fault. The res-

taurant operator made the decision to withdraw “as it had become increasingly likely that a request to cross-examine Gov. Koike would be turned down,” the plaintiff’s lawyer Rintaro Kuramochi said during a press conference in Tokyo.

During the first oral

proceedings at the Tokyo High Court on Tuesday, the metropolitan government claimed an examination of the governor was “unnecessary”, while Presiding Judge Yasushi Kanokogi expressed his intention to decide following subsequent hearings.—Kyodo

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MSC SUPARNA F VOY.NO. (SB232A/233R)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC SUPARNA F VOY.NO. (SB232A/233R)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **18-8-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MAERSK NARVIK VOY.NO. (230W/233E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MAERSK NARVIK VOY.NO. (230W/233E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **18-8-2022** 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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V GONG YIN 1 VOY.NO. (V.3195)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V GONG YIN 1 VOY.NO. (V.3195)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-8-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIPL** 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 CHUN AN INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS CO LTD

Sri Lanka to end state of emergency: president

SRI LANKA will not extend the state of emergency imposed to control anti-government protests as the situation in the impoverished nation has “stabilized”, the President’s Office said on Tuesday.

Ranil Wickremesinghe invoked the tough laws four days after his predecessor fled the country and resigned on 14 July after months of protests over acute food, fuel and medicine shortages.

The state of emergency imposed by Wickremesinghe expires on Thursday and he has the power to renew it every month

thereafter.

“The situation in the country has stabilized, there is no need to re-impose the state of emergency when it expires this week,” Wickremesinghe’s office was quoted as saying.

Emergency regulations allow troops and police to arrest suspects and detain them for long periods of time.

The state of emergency has been widely criticized by human rights groups as a draconian move that allows the president to enact regulations and restrict citizens’ freedoms without judicial review.

Wickremesinghe’s predecessor, Gotabaya Rajapaksa, was forced to flee the country and resign when tens of thousands of protesters overran his official residence.

The country’s 22 million people have been suffering from serious shortages of basic necessities since late last year, after the country ran out of foreign exchange to finance even its most basic imports.

The country defaulted on its \$51 billion foreign debt in mid-April and is in talks with the International Monetary Fund over a possible bailout.— AFP



Emergency regulations allow troops and police to arrest suspects and detain them for long periods of time. PHOTO: AFP

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Spain PM hopes Europe gas link to be a reality ‘soon’

SPANISH Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said Tuesday he hopes a gas pipeline linking the Iberian Peninsula to central Europe through France could soon become a reality.

Europe is currently undergoing an energy crisis as it struggles to rapidly reduce its dependence on Russian gas following the invasion of Ukraine.

Russia has reduced deliveries and nations are scrambling for supplies to avoid a possible shortage this winter, while prices for gas and electricity have soared. “Spain has a lot to contribute to help Europe reduce its energy dependence on Russia thanks to our immense regasification capacity,” Sanchez said on a visit to La

Palma in the Canary Islands. Spain currently has six liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals for processing deliveries made by huge sea tankers back into gas and injecting them into its pipeline network.

But the country has only two low-capacity links to France’s gas network, limiting its current ability to act as a conduit to boost EU gas imports.

Last week, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said a pipeline bringing gas from the Iberian Peninsula through France to central Europe could make “a massive contribution” to easing the supply crisis, in remarks hailed by Madrid and Lisbon.

Madrid has for years championed the idea of a pipeline across the Catalan Pyrenees with France to significantly increase transfer capacity and insisted such link could be built within months.—AFP



Spain hails Berlin call for Europe gas link. PHOTO: INA FASSBENDER / AFP

UN chief to visit Ukraine amid war with Russia

UN chief Antonio Guterres will meet with the leaders of Ukraine and Türkiye this week, a UN official says.

Guterres will hold talks in the western Ukrainian city of Lviv with President Volodymyr

Zelensky and Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Thursday.

They will discuss “the need for a political solution to this conflict”, UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric says.

Ukraine and Russia, two of the world’s biggest grain exporters, agreed a deal brokered by the UN and Türkiye last month to unblock Black Sea grain deliveries after Russia’s invasion.—AFP

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Here are the latest developments in the war in Ukraine:

Cyberattack against Kyiv’s nuclear operator

UKRAINE’S nuclear operator Energoatom reports what it calls an “unprecedented” cyberattack on its website, but says its operations have not been disrupted.

“On 16 August 2022, the most powerful cyberattack since the start of the Russian invasion occurred against Energoatom’s website,” the operator says on messaging app Telegram, adding it “was attacked from Russian territory”.

Russia cries ‘sabotage’ in Crimea

RUSSIA says that massive explosions at a munitions depot in Moscow-annexed Crimea were caused by an act of “sabotage”.

“As a result of an act of sabotage, a military storage facility near the village of Dzhankoi was damaged,” the defence ministry says.

It says power lines, a power plant, a railway track and residential buildings also suffered damage.

Russia annexed Crimea in 2014 in the wake of massive nationwide street demonstrations in Ukraine that led to the ouster of a Kremlin-friendly president.

The explosions come a week after at least one person was killed in similar explosions at a Russian military airbase in Crimea.

Putin accuses US

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin accuses Washington of seeking to prolong the conflict in Ukraine and of fuelling conflicts elsewhere, including with the visit of US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to Taiwan. The US has provided key economic and military backing to Kyiv, in particular supplying long-range, precision artillery that has allowed Ukraine to strike Russian supply facilities deep inside Moscow-controlled territory.

UN grain ship sets sail

A UN-chartered vessel laden with grain sets off from Ukraine for Africa, following the deal last month to relieve a global food crisis.

The MV Brave Commander departs from the Black Sea port of Pivdennyi and will sail to Djibouti “for delivery to Ethiopia”, Ukraine’s infrastructure ministry says on Telegram. The ship is loaded with 23,000 tonnes of wheat.

It is the first ship chartered by the UN World Food Programme (WFP) to leave Ukraine since Russia’s invasion began in February.

SOURCE: AFP

South Korea's Yoon says not fixated on record-low approval ratings

BATTLING record-low approval ratings after just three months on the job, South Korea's conservative President Yoon Suk-yeol said Wednesday he was not fixated on his dire polling numbers.

Since taking office in May, Yoon has seen his approval ratings plunge to a low of 24 per cent, and he said at a press briefing to mark 100 days in office that he would reflect on what had gone wrong.

But it is "more important to humbly examine the public sen-

timent reflected by the opinion polls rather than fixate on the number itself", he told reporters.

Yoon, a lifelong prosecutor with no prior experience in elected office, has made what analysts describe as a string of unforced errors during his first months in the role — which is typically a honeymoon period for new presidents in South Korea.

His predecessor Moon Jae-in enjoyed approval ratings of about 70 per cent at the same stage in his term, polling data showed, and Yoon started work

with 52 per cent of people polled thinking he was doing a good job.

Despite a steady drumbeat of criticism in local media over his team, Yoon said Wednesday he was not planning a wholesale reshuffle to try and appease angry voters, who have deserted him in droves, polls show.

"Personnel reshuffle should be carried out carefully rather than for political purposes to turn around... approval (ratings)," he said, adding that he wanted people to give his administration more time.— AFP



South Korea's President Yoon Suk-yeol is battling record-low approval ratings after just three months on the job. **PHOTO: POOL/AFP**

Jihadists spread from the Sahel to coastal West Africa

THEIR campaign began in northern Mali a decade ago, advanced into the country's powder-keg centre and from there into neighbouring Niger and Burkina Faso.

Now, fears are growing that the ruthless jihadists wreaking havoc in the Sahel are heading towards coastal West Africa.

Following multiple incursions including deadly attacks in the northern regions of Benin, Ivory Coast and Togo, governments in the Gulf of Guinea are reviewing their strategy.

Their chief concerns, say analysts: how to avoid replicating the mistakes of their neighbours in the Sahel, and how best to muster foreign support.

After Mali's junta took

power in August 2020, the country's ties with Paris went into a downward spiral, triggering a withdrawal of French troops that was completed on Monday.

Last month, Benin President Patrice Talon told his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron that his country needed more equipment, especially drones.

Among coastal states, northern Benin has been the most affected by the expanding jihadist threat, with around 20 attacks against security forces since late 2021.

"What we are going through is terrifying," a Beninese officer deployed at the border with Burkina Faso told AFP, speaking under condition of anonymity.—AFP



Ivory Coast last year inaugurated a training school for West African militaries fighting jihadism — the International Academy for Combatting Terrorism (AILCT). **PHOTO: AFP**



The Minuteman III was the first US Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) that could deliver Multiple Independent Reentry Vehicles (MIRVs) to a target. A Minuteman III in silo undergoing maintenance. **PHOTO: USAF/FILE**

US tests ICBM after Ukraine, China-linked delays

THE United States successfully tested a long-range, nuclear-capable ballistic missile Tuesday after twice postponing the launch to avoid stoking tensions over Ukraine and Taiwan, the Air Force announced.

The Air Force Global Strike Command launched the unarmed Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile over the Pacific from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California just after midnight local time. The missile carried a test re-entry vehicle, which in a strategic conflict could be

armed with a nuclear warhead.

The reentry vehicle travelled about 4,200 miles (6,760 kilometres) to the Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands in the western Pacific.

"This test launch is part of routine and periodic activities intended to demonstrate that the United States' nuclear deterrent is safe, secure, reliable and effective," the Air Force said in a statement. "Such tests have occurred more than 300 times before, and this test is not the result of current world events."—AFP

Former Australian PM defends secret power grab

AUSTRALIA'S former leader on Wednesday defended secret arrangements he made to swear himself in to key portfolios including defence and treasury, saying he would only have used the roles in an emergency during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Revelations about Scott Morrison's covert actions — labelled by his successor as the creation of a "shadow government" — have sparked a political firestorm in Australia this week.

During a lengthy and at-

times fiery press conference Wednesday, Morrison rejected calls that he resign from parliament, including those from his own home affairs minister.

"You're standing on the shore after the fact. I was steering the ship in the middle of the Tempest," he said.

He faced a barrage of questions about why he failed to tell the public — or even many of his fellow ministers — that he was giving himself the additional powers.

The conservative former prime minister added that he gained "no personal advantage" from being sworn in to administer five portfolios and stressed that the arrangements were only to be used in an emergency, such as if a minister died during the pandemic. Morrison said he only used the powers once, which was to override his resources minister and block a controversial offshore gas project — a move he conceded was separate from the pandemic.—AFP



Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council
Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

- (a) To enhance production based on agriculture and livestock through modern techniques and strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.

- (b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
- (c) To promote and support local businesses to create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.

3. Social affairs

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



Haruyuki Takahashi, a board member for the Tokyo Olympics, has been arrested on bribery allegations. PHOTO: POOL/AFP/FILE

Ex-Tokyo Olympic exec Takahashi arrested on bribery suspicion

A former Tokyo Olympic organizing committee executive, who had wielded huge influence in sports circles, was arrested by prosecutors Wednesday on suspicion of receiving bribes of about 51 million yen (\$380,000) from major business suit retailer Aoki Holdings Inc.

In addition to Haruyuki Takahashi, 78, a former senior managing director of Japan's largest advertising agency Dentsu Inc., the prosecutors arrested Hironori Aoki, a former chairman of the retailer, and two other people in connection with the case unfolding about a year after the Tokyo Olympics. The special team of the Tokyo District Public Prosecutors Office believes Takahashi

took the bribes on more than 50 occasions between October 2017 and March this year in exchange for helping Aoki get preferential treatment in the process of selecting sponsors.

He allegedly did so after a company he headed reached a consulting deal with Aoki. Its Olympic sponsorship was announced about a year later.

Takahashi, whose home in Tokyo was searched late last month, was deemed a quasi-civil servant when he was serving as an executive of the now-defunct committee of the Olympics and Paralympics, which were held despite the coronavirus pandemic following a one-year postponement. —Kyodo

Bodybuilding, physical fitness competition to be held for SEA Games

IN preparation for the 32nd Southeast Asian Games to be held in Cambodia in May 2023, the Myanmar Bodybuilding and Physical Fitness Sports Federation will hold the Federation President's Cup of the bodybuilding and physical fitness competition for newcomers on 18 September.

The competition between the new generation of athletes who excelled in the rookie-level competitions and the current national team level

athletes will be held in September, and the best athletes from this competition will be selected and trained for the SEA Games.

Athletes who have won the first, second, and third medals in the previous Southeast Asian Games and international invitational competitions who want to participate in the preliminary national team selection event can send their names to the federation, sports officials said. — Bala Soe/GNLM

ISPE FC to play against Thai club in Asian Women's Club Championship

MYANMAR club ISPE FC will play against the host Thai club College of Asian Scholars at 5 pm Myanmar Standard Time today as the second match of the East Asian Zone Group of the 2022 Asian Women's Club Championship in Chonburi, Thailand.

Only three teams are competing in the East Asian zone, and Myanmar club ISPE FC faced a loss to Chinese Taipei club Taichung Blue by 2-3 in the

first group match.

Therefore, in today's match, the ISPE FC will have to play with all their might in the hope of advancing to the next round, and there will be hope only if they win.

In case of a draw or a loss, ISPE FC will be out of the group stage, and if they win, they will have to watch the results of the match between the Thai club and the Chinese Taipei club.

ISPE FC has a lesser

chance to qualify for the finals as they lost in the opening game of the group.

The two teams with the most points from the East Asia Zone and the West Asia Zone will go to the finals.

ISPE FC has mostly international and youth international level players, but since this is the club's first international tournament, it lacks experience and struggles to get good results. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Ronaldo blasts 'lies' over Man Utd future

CRISTIANO Ronaldo has hit out at the "lies" surrounding reports about his future at Manchester United.

The Portugal forward missed United's pre-season tour to Thailand and Australia due to personal reasons as

speculation swirled over whether he would be leaving Old Trafford.

It has been reported Ronaldo wants to play Champions League football, but United maintain the 37-year-old is not for sale and remains an integral part

of the plans of new boss Erik ten Hag.

The former Real Madrid star played the full 90 minutes of United's 4-0 defeat at Brentford on Saturday, which left them bottom of the Premier League. —AFP