THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

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

Plans underway to enhance prevention and control of three animal diseases



A veterinarian prepares to inject vaccine into dairy cows. **PHOTO: KANU**

THE prevention and control of foot-and-mouth disease, African swine fever, and Sebaceous adenitis, which occur mostly in animals, will be enhanced in Yangon Region.

In order to prevent disease outbreaks in animals, from 11 to 17 July 2022, the regional administration bodies in regions and states carried out preventive and control activities assigning emergency response teams in coordination with related departments. The teams conducted training for disease prevention and control, public awareness campaign, disease detection and vaccination work.

Animal disease prevention and control work has been carried out regularly by the Department of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary every year, and this year, preventive work for three types of diseases will continue at a rapid pace even after the completion of the week.

"Since Yangon Region has a dense population, the livestock sector is important to meet the consumption needs of meat, milk, eggs, etc. Therefore, disease prevention and control are essential for the development of the livestock sector. The ability to prevent and control the diseases can fully achieve the production of farm animals and reduce losses, so it can fully protect the socio-economic status of livestock farmers. People will be able to consume disease-free livestock products. Disease prevention and control activities will continue at a rapid pace," said Dr. Min Nyunt Oo, Deputy Director of the Yangon Region Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department.

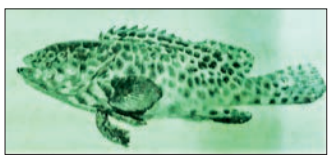
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7 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 17 July, total figure rises to 613,816

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 613,816 after seven new cases were reported on 17 July 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 592,736 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll still stands at 19,434 without more casualties.

COVID-19 vaccine is being injected to those of priority groups in regions and states for prevention and control of the disease. Up to 16-7-2022, a total of 29,997,127 people above 18 have been vaccinated. A total of 5,800,137 people under 18 have been vaccinated. —MNA

Unity in its real essence

Unity must have a common interest, a common sense of working together and a common objective, for the independence of the whole country and the interests of the whole populace. Unity must work for the people so that they can enjoy shared well-being and shared cause in working together. It is not enough just to say that we want to be united. Labour must be shared, and interests must be shared. Our objective must be the same. Only this kind of effort is worth calling "Unity".

(Excerpt from the speech addressed by Bogyoke Aung San at the AFPFL Conference on 23 January 1946)



Myanmar National Flag to hoist at half-mast on 75th Martyrs' Day

THE State Administration Council has informed all government offices and organizations of hoisting the Flag of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at half-mast across the country, and MRTV national television channel to sound sirens at 10:37 am to commemorate the fallen leaders as a symbol of grief, on 19 July 2022 Tuesday (75th Martyrs' Day).

At that time, vehicles on road must stop for a while and honk their horns too, it is learnt. — MNA

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

THE opening ceremony of the In-house Skill Development Training No 37 for Senior Auditors was held at 10:30 am on 14 July at the Assembly Hall of the Office of the Auditor-General of the Union, Nay Pyi Taw.

At the ceremony, Union Auditor-General Prof Dr Kan Zaw delivered an address that the training aims to enhance the capability of auditing and management and to be able to audit in line with international standards; the trainees, as members or leaders of the audit team, need to understand the organizational behaviour of auditees; maintain a good relationship between auditors and auditees, and audit in a timely manner whether the projects are implemented in line with the criteria within the specified time frame to ensure that the public fund is protected effectively and the public fully receive the benefits of social infrastructure funded by the public fund.

Also, he emphasized that trainees should try to learn and study systematically, exchange and discuss their views in a friendly atmosphere during the training, and then apply those in practical work by keeping the auditors' ethics and goodwill for the public interests.

Afterwards, the principal of the Training School, the Office of the Auditor-General of the Union, clarified the training information.

Then, the Union Auditor-General friendly greeted the trainees and the ceremony was concluded.

During the three-week training period of 14-7-2022 to 6-8-2022, two from the Head Office and the Union Territory each and 104 from the Auditor-General's Offices of State/Region, totalling 108, will attend the training and six subjects including ISSAI Based Financial Audit, Performance Audit, and Compliance Audit will be taught.

The permanent secretary, the director-general (Audit Department), the deputy permanent secretary, the deputy directors-general, responsible persons, trainers and trainees attended the ceremony.

Similarly, the Union Auditor-General attended and planted Cobras Saffron at the monsoon tree-planting ceremony of the Office of the Auditor-General of the Union which was held at 9 am on 14 July. During the event, the permanent secretary, the director-general (Audit Department), deputy permanent secretary, deputy directors-general, directors, deputy directors, and responsible persons planted a total of 180 saplings, including Cobras Saffron, Starflower, Royal Poinciana, Mahogany, Teak, and Ironwood. The Union Auditor-General and responsible persons walked and rounded the event. — MNA



The opening ceremony of In-house Skill Development Training No 37 for Senior Auditors is in progress in Nay Pyi Taw on 14 July.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Information Team
State Administration Council

Tatmadaw will implement harmoniously with the people for national politics

WE, soldiers, always have to safeguard our three main national causes: Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of the National Solidarity, Perpetuation of Sovereignty as a national duty for the Union in which over 100 ethnic people live. National affairs mean safeguarding national interests, and religion, , traditional culture and customs. Let the nation be led by any political system or any government, as our national policy, Tatmadaw has to maintain the Three Main National Causes concerning all nationalities. I would like to urge that Tatmadaw will implement harmoniously with the people for national politics.

(Excerpt from the message sent by Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Maha Thray Sithu Min Aung Hlaing on the occasion of 74th Anniversary Union Day which fell on 12 February 2021)

FDA (Yangon Branch) commissioned into service

THE Yangon Branch of the Department of Food and Drug Administration under the Ministry of Health was commissioned into service in Htaukkyant of Mingaladon Township, Yangon Region, yesterday.

Member of the State Administration Council Jeng Phang Naw Taung, Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win and Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Soe Thein inspected tests for contents of mercury and lead in the products at the laboratories, laboratory tests for active pharmaceutical ingredients for manufacturing of drugs, use of dyes in foodstuffs, quality of foodstuffs, saturated and unsaturated oils.



SAC member Jeng Phang Naw Taung, Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein cut the ribbon to open Yangon Branch of FDA on 17 July.

In his speech, the SAC member highlighted that operation of the FDA (Yangon Branch) decided to further cooperate with relevant departments, organizations and partner associations for supervising production of safe foodstuffs, medicines, medical equipment and cosmetics. It will help the people use the safe and quality foodstuffs, medicines and cosmetics, contributing to the improvement of socio-economic status of the people.

The Union Minister for Health said the Yangon branch of the FDA comprises modern laboratories, office, staff and officer housings and one training centre, totalling seven. Officials from the department will check foodstuffs, medicines, medical equipment and cosmetics whether they meet international standards.

The director general of FDA reported on organizational setups of the Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon branches and their duties and functions.

The department was set up as a separate department under the Ministry of Health on 1 August 2013.

It has been formed with Nay Pyi Taw (head office), Yangon and Mandalay branches, 12 region and state offices, and 13 border trade camps in addition to 33 district level offices. — MNA

About 1,100 workers granted OWIC, 57 overseas employment agencies licensed between February 2021 and 14 July

AS plans are underway to send workers overseas, there are 314 overseas employment agencies and 114 (Thai) licensed agencies until 1 February 2021. From 1 February 2021 to 14 July 2022, 29 overseas employment agency licences and 28 (Thai) licences, a total of 57 were issued. Currently, there are 343 agencies in operation.

Similarly, the Overseas Worker Identification Card (OWIC) has been issued at the Pinlon Training School in North Dagon Township, daily from Monday to Saturday, to 800 people for Thailand, 200 people for other countries, and 100 for own arrangements, a total of 1,100 people have been granted, Union Minister U Myint Kyaing said at the Executive Committee Election Ceremony of the Myanmar Overseas Employment Agencies Federation, held at the Novotel Yangon Max Hotel in Yangon yesterday. For workers who are going to work abroad either by their own plan or through licensed foreign employment agencies, foreign guidance courses are being held at skill training institutes (Yangon and Mandalay) from 1 June, three times a week, about 500 people at a time in Yangon, and about 700 people in Mandalay. — MNA



Union Minister for Labour U Myint Kyaing speaking at executive committee election ceremony of Myanmar Overseas Employment Agencies Federation on 17 July.

MRTV to broadcast of 75th Martyrs' Day of 2022 ceremony live

THE ceremony of the 75th Martyrs' Day will be held at the Martyrs' Mausoleum, Bahan Township, Yangon Region, at 8 am on 19 July.

The ceremony will be broadcast live on MRTV-HD, MRTV NEWS, MITV, MOI Website, MOI Youtube and MRTV Website and aired live on Radio Myanmar, Thazin FM, Mandalay FM, Pyinsawady FM, Shwe FM, Padamyar FM, FM Bagan, Cherry FM and Star FM starting from 7:40 am on 19 July. —MRTV

Rakhine State produces oysters, orange-spotted groupers on commercial scale

RAKHINE State conveys oysters and orange-spotted grouper (Epinephalus coiodes) to Yangon and other large cities, according to the Rakhine State Fisheries Department.

People breed oysters for one year and a half and they are marketable between six-eight inches. The hotels and restaurants offer delicate oysters. It costs between K1,500 and K2,000 per oyster at farms and the hotels and restaurants sell over K5,000 per value-added oyster.

The people can eat oysters only in their season and now they are commercially bred and mainly shipped to the Yangon market. If the shell of an oyster is damaged when taken from the rocks, it can affect the quality and they are bred on mangrove rocks by covering with tyres or in a line.



Oysters are being bred in lines.



Oysters and orange-spotted groupers farms are seen near Thazintanpauk Bridge between Kyaukpyu and Gwa.

"We get baby oysters in mangrove forests while orange-spotted groupers in the mangrove of Rakhine State, Taninthayi and Yangon regions. The Rakhine State Fisheries Department also make efforts to find the proper mangrove forests to produce oysters and orange-spotted groupers. Oyster sauce can be produced from the oyster. If the number of oyster farmers becomes high, the value-added oyster sauce can be produced. There are nearly 100 acres of oyster and orange-spotted grouper farming in Rakhine State. These two marketable products are bred in creeks, bays and mangroves of Rakhine State," said Director U Thet Oo of the Rakhine State Fisheries Department.

The people also breed orange-spotted groupers, which are marketable in their six months. During over one year and a half investment period, orange-spotted groupers are bred that can earn incomes within three and eight months.

The price is between K15,000 and K30,000 per orange-spotted grouper. Sales are on the rise as seafood. The oysters and orange-spotted groupers are mainly produced in Thandwe, Gwa, Manaung, Yanbye and Kyaukpyu townships. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/GNLM

Reference wholesale price set as K3,665 per viss of palm oil

IT was announced on 17 June that it would take action under the Important Goods and Services Act if the persons raise prices, stores goods illegally and scams in the domestic market.

The Committee for the Supervision of the Import and Distribution of Edible Oils under the Ministry of Commerce has issued the statement in a bid to manage the domestic palm oil prices.

Depending on the daily monitoring of FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia, transportation costs, bank expenses, and basic wholesale reference price to be traded in the local market are taken into account, including taxes for setting the proper prices.

From 18 to 24 July, the basic Yangon reference wholesale price of palm oil is K3,665 per viss.

These basic wholesale quotes are available on the Department of Consumer Affairs website: www.doca.gov.mm and on the Facebook page of the Myanmar Oil Traders and Oil Entrepreneurs Association.—MNA

Plans underway to enhance prevention and control of three animal diseases

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If any suspected disease occurs in buffalo, cows, pork, chicken, quail and ducks, farmers are urged to inform the relevant Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Departments about the outbreak of disease in a timely manner.

More than 21,000 buffaloes, about 150,000 cows, more than 37,000 goats, more than 23,000 pigs, more than 500,000 ducks, more than one million quails and 10.5 million chickens have been bred in Yangon Region.

As in commercial farming, more than 4,500 domestic cows in 61 farms, more than 1,260 dairy cows in 268 farms, 1,700 herds of beef cattle in 36 farms, more than 2,200 cattle in 56 buffalo farms, more than 60,000 cattle in 242 pig farms, more than 5,600 goats in 53 farms, more than 2,840,000 layers in 269 farms, more than 4,540,000 broilers in 712 farms, 150,000 chickens in 10 CP farms, more than 12,800 domestic chickens in nine farms, more than 700,000 pedigree chickens in 19 farms, more than 110,000 ducks in 51 farms, more than 900,000 cows in 93 cattle farms, are raised in Yangon Region, according to the list collected in June 2020.—Nyein Thu (MNA)/GNLM

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www.gnlm.com.mm
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION
(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 454237515
ADVERTISING & MARKETING
(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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gnlmnews@gmail.com
www.gnlm.com.mm

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LOCAL BUSINESS

Mobile market trucks run in 11 districts on 17 July, offers palm oil price at cheaper rate

SIXTEEN mobile market trucks operated by 11 companies, in coordination with Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association, are back to business in 11 districts starting from 17 July in order to offer the palm oil at the subsidized rate to the consumers.

The mobile market scheme will cover the remaining townships in the upcoming days. The market prices will be changed according to the reference rates on the weekly basis.

Mobile market trucks offer palm oil at the cheaper rate of K4,750 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) this week in Yangon Region.



Consumers are seen in a queue to buy cooking oil at mobile market truck.

Under the guidance of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) and the Myanmar Rice Federation, the affiliated associations including Myanmar Rice Traders Association, Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association and rice exporters are offering staple food at fairer price with the mobile trucks in the respective townships in Yangon Region.

The reference wholesale price of palm oil in Yangon market for a week from 11 to 17 July is set at K4,650 per viss, according to the Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution under the Ministry of Commerce.

The committee has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia including transportation cost, tariff and banking service and issuing the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil on a weekly basis.

If those retailers and wholesalers are found overcharging, storing inventory intentionally and attempting unscrupulous action to manipulate the market, they will face legal action under the Special Goods Tax Law, MoC released a statement.

The Ministry of Commerce is striving for the consumers not to worry over the supply of edible oil. The ministry is also trying to secure edible oil sufficiency, supervise the market to offer the reasonable price to the consumers, maintain the price stability and prevent market manipulation.

The domestic consumption of edible oil is estimated at 1 million tonnes per year. The local cooking oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. To meet the oil sufficiency in the domestic market, about 700,000 tonnes of cooking oil are yearly imported through Malaysia and Indonesia. — NN/GNLM

India likely to import over 50,000 tonnes of black gram from Myanmar in two months

INDIA is expected to bring in over 50,000 tonnes of black gram (urad in India) from Myanmar in two months, according to a report cited by Agri World Mumbai.

India is expected to import about 15,000-20,000 tonnes of Myanmar's black gram in July and about 30,000-35,000 tonnes in August.

Myanmar sent 15,000 tonnes of black gram to India in June as well.

Myanmar has a decent stock of approximately 300,000 tonnes of black gram. If the country exports about 50,000 tonnes to other countries, 200,000-225,000 tonnes of black grams remain for exports. Additionally, the stock of black gram is getting lower in the market and the volume of sales dropped.

At present, a ship loaded with 5,000 tonnes of black gram and pigeon peas left for Chennai, India on 14 July. There is a shipment of 180 containers (4,320 tonnes) scheduled on 17 July and 380 containers (9,120 tonnes) on 23 July.

India is facing crop yield drop under drought conditions and declining sowing acres this monsoon season. Their growers are increasingly cultivating cotton and soybean. The sowing acres of rice and various pulses dropped. The areas of urad fell from 1.94 lakhs hectare to 0.93 lakh hectare in 2022, according to the Agri World Mumbai.

Additionally, India's government reportedly has 110,000 tons of green gram (Moong), 20,000 tonnes of black gram (urad), 9,000 tonnes of pigeon peas (tur) and 7,000 tonnes of red lentils (Masoor) as buffer stock. India is reportedly to import 50,000-75,000 tonnes of black gram (urad in India) and they will purchase black gram from Myanmar to keep them in reserve.

India, the main buyer of Myanmar's black grams, has high consumption of black grams. Furthermore, it re-exports them to the external market after processing the grams. The annual consumption of black grams in India is estimated at 2.7-2.8 million tonnes.

India extended relaxations of conditions regarding clearance consignment for black gram and pigeon peas until 31 March 2023.

The prevailing price of black gram is K1,537,000 per tonne, whereas the price peaked at K1,700,000 per tonne on 30 June.

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

Pineapple sale doubles in Hsipaw area

THE sales of pineapples produced from the Hsipaw area in the northern Shan State this year increased by two folds as against last year's volume. The price is fetching higher as well.

The travel restrictions triggered by the COVID-19 impacts in the past years hampered the market, resulting in a price drop of K350 per piece, said Ma Yin Hun, a seller in Hsipaw Township.

"The pineapple trade is brisk this year. Last year, the coronavirus hindered transportation and the price plummeted. The price varies on the sizes. Pineapples of large size are sold out at the moment. I execute 20 acres of plantation and around 35,000 pineapples are expected to yield. I am also engaged in a digital platform to sell the pineapples beyond distributions to the wholesale and retail markets. This year, farm input costs including fuel oil prices and fertilizer went up. This being so, growers do not make a large profit despite the high price," she elaborated.

The pineapples from Hsipaw Township are delivered to Muse, Yangon, Magway, Mandalay and lower Myanmar regions. The season starts in June and ends in September. In the beginning of the harvest season, a pineapple weighs about 1.5 viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes). Later, the weight of a pineapple is below one viss.

The price of a pineapple is estimated at K1,000 for over one viss. The small size fetches K700 and small one is priced at K500. The pineapples from Indaw and Bamao areas in Kachin State are supplied to the Mandalay market as well.— Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)/GNLM



Local farmers are plucking pineapples at the farm.

COVID-19 vaccine drive continues in Dagon Myothit (North) Township

AS the vaccination programme is one of the most important activities in the prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 pandemic, the health staff are working hard to give COVID-19 vaccines to all citizens free of charge.

On the morning of 16 July, the healthcare officials gave the next dose of COVID-19 vaccine to local people who were over the age of 18 and completed the full dose of vaccine at least six months ago, at the community halls for religious purposes which were fixed as assembly areas, located in Extension Ward 41, Ward 30 and Ward 16 of Dagon Myothit (North)Township.



A health staff injects COVID-19 vaccine into a local in Dagon Myothit (North) Township on 16 July.

At the gathering points, 270 people from Ward 16, 333 people from Ward 30 and 450 people from Ward 41 were given Covishield and Covaxin vaccine doses by the healthcare workers.—Myint Myint Yi/GNLM

Students aged 5 to 12 take COVID-19 vaccines in Pauktaw Township

THE students aged between five and 12 years from primary and monastic schools have been given the first and second dose of Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine in the Pauktaw Township, Sittway District of Rakhine State on 16 July.

The vaccination programme was done under the supervision of relevant administration body and COVID-19 vaccines were given to students in accordance with the prevention guidelines of the Ministry of Health.

The first and second dose of COVID-19 vaccine was given to 217 and 1,031 students respectively, with the permission of their parents, on 15 July and the rest of them will have to receive the vaccine at the relevant primary schools.

It is reported that members of Pauktaw Township Administration Body, responsible personnel of relevant townships, officials from Education Department, administrators and social associations coordinated the necessary works.—Township IPRD/GNLM

CRIME NEWS

Drugs impounded in Sangyoung, Insein, Namhkam townships

A combined inspection team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force searched Min Thurein (aka) Bay Gyi, who is on suspicion at the front of BEHS (3), Sangyoung street, north Sangyoung ward, Sangyoung township at 6 pm on 15 July. They found 100 tablets of Ecstasy and 0.005 kilogramme of Ketamine and as an investigation result, the team seized 2,739 tablets of Ecstasy, 0.25 kilogramme of Ketamine and 37.32 kilogrammes of marijuana, total worth of K163.63 million from his house, located at No 23/25, Sangyoung street, North Sangyoung ward, Sangyoung township at 8:30 pm.

Likewise, the Anti-Drug Task Force searched a Probox vehicle driven by Thet Naing accompanied by Ma Nang Nadi in Khayaypin road, near Danyingon junction, Danyingon ward of Insein township at 8 pm on 16 July. The team impounded 1,930 stimulant tablets. The team inspected drugs dealer Ma Cho Cho's house and seized K800,000 from the house at No 872/A, U Paw Oo street, No 18 ward, west Hlinethaya township at 9 pm.

Similarly, the team searched Tin Shwe, who is on suspicion in No 12 ward of Namhkam at 1 pm on the same day. The team found 1,600 stimulant tablets from him. They are prosecuted under the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, the Myanmar Police Force stated. — MNA



Min Thurein (aka) Bay Gyi is seen with seized narcotic drugs in Sangyoung Township on 15 July.

Illegal timbers, foodstuffs, consumer goods, mobile accessories and vehicles confiscated

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

A combined inspection team searched a vehicle on Kyarkalay road near Kyonphe Village on 15 July, seized frozen artificial meats worth K1.35 million without official documents and a Toyota Hilux Vigo at estimated value of K15 million. Total worth of seizures amounted to K16,350,000 and the action was taken under the Customs Law.

Similarly, under the supervision of the Anti-Illegal Trade special task force, an anti-illegal trade team of Muse and relevant departments searched two trucks driven from Namkham on Swansaw ward of Muse. The team seized foodstuffs, consumer goods and mobile accessories at estimated value of K28,388,766 without official documents and the two trucks worth K41 million. Total worth of seizures amounted to K69,388,766 and the action was taken under the Customs Law.

In Kayin State on 15 July, the combination team examined a vehicle on Kyonsauk village, beside of Myawady-Mawlamyine road. The team confiscated empty gas cylinders and accessories, construction materials and other utensils at estimated value of K15,011,500 and a Mitsubishi Fuso truck worth K22 million. The team also inspected a vehicle at Myawady OSS trade zone



Photo shows seized construction materials in Kayin State on 15 July.

and seized various kinds of footwear worth estimated K1,825,950 expressed more than Import Declaration (ID). On 16 July, at the Thanlwin Bridge (Hpa-an) checkpoint, the inspection team seized a repaired generator valued at K35 million without official documents and a Nissan Diesel 22 wheels truck and trailer worth K32 million. And seized consumer goods without duty free estimated value of K114 million from four vehicles which was drive from Myawady to Yangon at Kawkareik (Tadarkyo) checkpoint. Hence, seizures of total amounts reached K117,237,450 and the action was taken under the Customs Law.

An inspection team searched a truck, driven from Myawady to Yangon near Phayagyi checkpoint on 14 July. The team confiscated bikes worth K8,535,000 without official documents and a Hino truck worth K25 million and action was taken under the Customs Law. On 17 July, a combined team led by Forest Department seized 17.397 tonnes of illegal teak worth K5,349,020 in Toungoo and Thayawady districts and the action was taken under the Forest Law. An inspection team led by Myanmar Police Force seized a Hijet without license worth K2.5 million at Thapyaykan village of Waw township and the action was taken under the Import and Export Law. A combined team seized 0.7192 tonne of illegal timbers worth estimated value K474,672 at Yinmabin on 17 July. The team led by Myanmar Police Force impounded a Toyota Liteace without licence worth K2.5 million in Sagaing. Total worth of seizures amounted to K2,974,672.

Therefore, 12 cases (approximately K247,334,908) were arrested from 14 to 17 July. — MNA

ARTICLE

Preparations in full swing to mark 75th Martyrs' Day

By TWA



Bogyoke Aung San Museum in Yangon.

MYANMAR will commemorate the 75th Martyrs' Day in remembrance of the fallen heroes on 19 July. Martyrs' day is annually observed to pay tribute to the national heroes by the different governments throughout the years.

The wreath-laying and saluting ceremony by high-ranking officials at Martyrs' Mausoleum, the flag hoisting at half-mast ceremony at the Ministers' Office (former secretariat) and alms giving in memorial of the fallen heroes ceremony in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw are to be held, said Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Ko Ko, in his capacity as the chair of Martyrs' Day organizing central committee.

Preparations by the ministries concerned are in full swing one month ahead of the Martyrs' Day at the historical sites; Martyrs' Mausoleum, the Ministers' Office and Bogyoke Museum. State-level preparations for the ceremonies include hosting the family members of the fallen heroes and taking preventive measures for the people in paying tribute to the national heroes at the wreath-laying ceremony in line with the COVID-19 health protocols.

"Preparations at Martyrs' Mausoleum including drainage work, graphic boards and restoration of the fence kicked off on 1 June and all three works are totally completed at present," said an official of Yangon City Development Committee's Engineering Department (Building).

Preparations at the mausoleum included restoration and cleaning activities on the floor and painting the mausoleum. Union Minister U Ko Ko highlighted to ensure the compliance with the guidelines related to the COVID-19 and to take security measures while hosting the Martyrs' Day ceremony.

"As it is the state-level ceremony with high-ranking officials, the Union Minister himself asked the police force to boost security," a police officer told the Global New Light of Myanmar daily.

"The preparations are systematically made for the Martyrs' Day. The Bogyoke Museum, the Martyrs' Mausoleum and the Secretariat will be observed. I visited those places last year. The preparations are undertaken in unique design every year. This annual event marks a debt of gratitude to our honourable fallen heroes. I will pay my respects to the martyrs on the Martyrs' Day and will visit the museum and the ministers' office after that day," Ko Lin Tun, a company staff member living in Tamway Township, told the GNLM.



Bogyoke Aung San Residence Museum in Natmauk.

The preparations were carried out starting from 25 June. Bogyoke museums will host special exhibitions in Yangon and Natmauk cities. People can visit the museums free of charge.

The alternative routes will be used and some roads will be temporarily closed near the mausoleum, the ministers' office and the museum starting from 4 a.m. to the closing time of the ceremony.

"The drivers have been notified to swift to the alternative routes to avoid the unnecessary traffic congestion. So, we can take alternative routes on Martyrs' Day," Arkar Soe Htut, a taxi driver told the GNLM.

Visitors are not allowed to carry mobile phones, pens, flags, cameras, wreaths, bouquets, flowers, vinyl, bottles, matches, sticks and plastic and steel pipes to enter the Mausoleum, the Ministers' Office and Bogyoke Museum. Furthermore, remotely piloted drones are prohibited as well.

It is mandatory to wear the masks. The visitors are to strictly adhere to the preventive measures for the COVID-19.

"The unnecessary items are prohibited to carry in certain areas for security concerns as per notification. We must take care of that," said Ma Aye Lwin, a resident in Kyauktada Township.

Furthermore, the new COVID-19 case has risen in recent days. Therefore, the elderly persons, those persons with chronic diseases and persons with certain symptoms (fever, cough, fatigue and short of breath) are not allowed to visit Bogyoke museum and the Ministers' Office which will be opened between 19 and 21 July as preventive measures.

If people have those symptoms, they are advised to follow the instructions of the Ministry of Health.

"Our township has transportation service to Martyrs' Mausoleum, Bogyoke Museum and the Ministers' Office. We want the youths to pay tribute to the heroes to remember the fallen heroes on Martyrs' Day as it is customary to mark that ceremony every year," Ko Win Thein from Dagon Myothit (East) Township told the GNLM.

Temperature of attendees will be measured. Their names, citizenship scrutiny card and addresses will be listed. So, they are notified to hold the identification card such as citizenship scrutiny card, staff identification card, etc.

"The Ministers' Office is also decorated with new designs in the previous years. The room where the martyrs were assassinated was converted to a Buddhist shrine last year. The documentary films and photos are displayed at the Ministers' Office. I must observe the new settings this year. I visit the Ministers' Office every year when it is officially opened for the public," said Daw San San Lwin from Botahtaung Township. ■



The flag hoisting at half-mast ceremony marked at Ministers' Office in Yangon in 2021.

OPINION

Fight against violence inside and outside the home

Everybody is responsible for the prevention of violence which targets women and children in a vulnerable group of people. Sometimes, even men may fall under violence. It is because there are various forms of violence against them.

Those who fall under the violence face losses in health, education, social and other measures. In fact, violence poses shock and trembling to the victims to face mental and physical problems. As such, governments in successive eras enacted laws, rules and regulations to fight against the violators.

The types of violence that the violators mostly commit are physical violence, emotional or psychological violence, sexual violence, economic violence and harmful traditional practice. As violators may commit brutal or bullying or harmful violence, victims suffer from disadvantages of physical and mental losses. They may suffer from wounds in their bodies, disabilities, depression, frightening, mental humiliation, loss of opportunities and unexpected illnesses triggered by dangerous infectious diseases based on sex abuse, disunity of families and other criminal cases.

> Hence, everybody should hold up the concept that they all are responsible for the prevention of violence and violators. On the other hand, they have to abide by the enacted laws related to the prevention of violence while arranging the preventive measures for women against violence.

As such, the people need to cooperate with the government in taking preventive measures against violence in various forms. Both men and women should join such activities for protecting their rights to be able to avoid violence against each other. They have to raise the gender equality measures because most of the violence cases are based on gender discrimination. Generally, men accept the concept that they have greater than women in all measures; so they must have to do anything by gaining the upper hand.

Moreover, the people, particularly women need to know the laws related to the prevention of violence as well as laws on trafficking in persons so as to take advantage of these laws to fight against the violence which happens in and out of the home. Only when victims of violence including women and children know the definitions and essence of the laws can they take the legal coverage for their lives to be escaped from the violence.

Hence, everybody should hold up the concept that they all are responsible for the prevention of violence and violators. On the other hand, they have to abide by the enacted laws related to the prevention of violence while arranging the preventive measures for women against violence.

To have a wider knowledge about violence, they have to implement conducting health, education and social enhancement activities on how to avoid the danger of violence and how to manage violence incidents, and emphasize counselling, school-based care and rehabilitation for the violence victims with the aid for their needs.

■ ■ ■

‘True balance’: Japan’s quiet telework revolution

Posted far from home for his job at Japanese conglomerate Hitachi, father of two Tsutomu Kojima was “really lonely” until he began working remotely during the pandemic for the first time.

Covid-19 has upended office routines worldwide, but in Japan — where punishing hours and reliance on paper files, ink stamps and fax machines has long been the norm — some say the shake-up was sorely needed.

Pre-pandemic, just nine percent of the Japanese workforce had ever teleworked, compared with 32 per cent in the United States and 22 percent in Germany, according to Tokyo-based consultancy firm Nomura Research Institute.

But a quiet revolution in the country’s rigid business culture is underway, with firms working to digitise operations and offer more flexibility to staff who were once expected to stay late, go drinking with the boss and accept far-flung transfers.

Kojima used to live alone in accommodation provided by Hitachi near Tokyo, an hour and a half by bullet train from his family in Nagoya.

Back then he would return only twice a month, but now the 44-year-old works exclusively from home, and says he is more productive and closer to his teenage daughters.

“I have more time to help them with their studies. My youngest told me she hopes things stay like this,” he told AFP.

“I used to feel really lonely” in Tokyo, Kojima said, but he has since realised that “true balance means not giving up on family”.

Old habits

Nearly a third of jobs in Japan were done remotely during the first Covid wave in spring 2020, the Japan Productivity Centre says, even though the government never imposed strict stay-at-home orders.

The rate has since fallen to 20 percent, but that is still far higher than before the pandemic, according to quarterly surveys by the non-profit organisation.

To encourage telework, the government and some companies made efforts to phase out personalised ink stamps used to certify documents, as well as the ubiquitous fax machine.

Often in Japan, “business has to be done in person, on paper”, habits dating back to the 1970s and 80s, when the Japanese economy was booming, said Hiroshi Ono, a professor at Hitotsubashi University specialising in human resources.

“One of the things Covid has done is bring those barriers down: work doesn’t have to be done at the office, men can work at home,” he told AFP.

Companies are realising that new ways of working can be more efficient, he added.

“Before Covid, it was so important for employees to show that they’re working hard, instead of actually producing results.”

New balance

Reflecting trends elsewhere, people are also fleeing the big city.

A record number of company headquarters moved out of Tokyo last year, according to Teikoku Databank, while the capital’s population decreased for the first time in 26 years.

Among those who have upped sticks are Kazuki and Shizuka Kimura, who left their cramped Tokyo apartment for a custom-built house near the sea.

The couple now mostly do their jobs in communication and marketing remotely from Fujisawa, southwest of the capital, having struggled to both work from home in Tokyo.



Kazuki Kimura works in his house in Fujisawa, Kanagawa Prefecture, in June. **PHOTO: AFP**

“It was really Covid that made us take this decision,” said Kazuki Kimura, who used to seek out other places to do meetings — at his parents’ home or in cafes, remote-work boxes set up in train stations, and even karaoke booths.

“Sometimes you could hear singing from the booth next door,” which made it difficult to concentrate, recalls the 33-year-old, who is now learning to surf.

Shizuka Kimura, 29, thinks “more and more people are now prioritising their wellbeing, rather than their job”, but questions how quickly things will change on a wider scale.

This is a concern shared by Hiromi Murata, an expert at Recruit Works Institute, who says smaller companies may be slower to adapt to new work styles than big firms like Hitachi, Panasonic or telecoms giant NTT.

Remote work can also pose a problem for training new recruits, because “you learn on the job”, Murata said.

“Before, it was so important to meet in the office… each business must find a new balance, in their own way and time.”

SOURCE: AFP

Airlines’ fragile recovery from Covid

Airlines are recovering from huge Covid fallout but face fresh turbulence from rocketing inflation while airports battle to cope with booming demand.

Here is an assessment of the state of airlines ahead of next week’s Farnborough airshow that traditionally witnesses big deals struck for new Airbus and Boeing planes.

Flying back to profit

Global airlines suffered cumulative losses of almost $190 billion between 2020 and 2022, according to industry body the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

However, particularly in Europe and the United States, carriers are now regaining customers with demand boosted by vaccinations and the lifting of Covid restrictions.

A return to profitability appears within reach for airlines in 2023, according to the IATA, predicting a rebound in passenger numbers this year to 83 percent of pre-pandemic levels.



Jakarta, Indonesia - September 2020: Passengers boarding a plane wear masks and follow health protocols during the COVID-19 pandemic. **PHOTO: SONY HERDIANA/SHUTTERSTOCK/WORLD BANK**

Consolidation

There is rapid consolidation as the sector faces headwinds from historically-high fuel prices and big salary increases in the face of decades-high inflation.

Many carriers are also suffering from severe staff shortages, having slashed thousands of jobs in the pandemic.

A lack of staff is constraining capacity at the world’s biggest airports.

In the United States, Spirit Airlines is the subject of a takeover tussle between rival carriers JetBlue and Frontier.

In Europe, Air France and Lufthansa are vying for control of Italy’s ITA Airways, formerly known as Alitalia.

And in South America, Brazilian airline Gol and Colombia’s Avianca agreed to merge to create a regional titan.

Air traffic recovery

North America and Europe are soon expected to return to pre-pandemic levels of air traffic, but Asia is lagging behind as Beijing’s strict zero-Covid policy hampers recovery.

The IATA forecasts the world’s domestic air traffic will return to pre-crisis levels by next year.

In the meantime, major European hubs — including Amsterdam, Dublin, Frankfurt, London and Paris — are suffering major travel chaos.

Top airports have been plagued by mountains of misplaced luggage and vast security queues, while some passengers have been stranded on planes owing to shortages of ground staff.

Airlines, including British Airways and Lufthansa, have been forced to axe thousands of flights owing to a lack of staff.

And air traffic control has faced delays, including as a result of planes being re-routed to avoid Belarusian, Russian and Ukrainian airspace because of the war.

Eyeing takeoff

European planemaker Airbus and its fierce US rival Boeing are experiencing a surge in orders, having slashed production during the early stages of the coronavirus pandemic.

Airlines are readying for a strong rebound in international travel following the lifting of Covid restrictions.

Carriers are urgently seeking to replace ageing fleets with greener, more fuel-efficient aircraft that emit less carbon dioxide — a key theme of this year’s Farnborough airshow.

SOURCE: AFP

ARTICLE
Weather Report

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 17 July 2022)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (18:30) hrs MST today, the low pressure area over North Odisha (India) still persists. Monsoon is moderate over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 18 July 2022: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing, and Magway regions and Kayah State, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay Region and Eastern Shan and Chin states, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon, and Ayeyawady regions and Kachin, (Northern and Southern) Shan and Kayin states and widespread in the remaining regions and states. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-35) mph. Wave height will be about (7-9) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of rain in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 18 July 2022: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 18 July 2022: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Myawady Trade Zone handled US$ 42.262 million worth of trade volume



Photo: Myawady Trade Zone.

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Commerce, a trade volume worth US$ 42.262 million was handled at the Myawady Trade Zone in June.

From 18 to 24 June, the export volume worth $ 13.165 million and import volume worth $ 29.097 million, a total of $ 42.262 million worth of trade volume was handled at the trade zone, which is $10.786 million less in export volume and $ 0.561 million more in import volume compared to the performance of the previous week.

The decrease in exports was in agricultural products and garments, and the increase in imports was in telephone and communication equipment, electric power distribution and installation materials, construction materials, petroleum products, fertilizers, plastic raw materials, pharmaceutical products, and lace textiles.

Relevant authorities are making efforts to facilitate trade through the Myawady Trade Zone. — TWA/GNLM

Shwedagon Pagoda to host religious ceremonies on every Sabbath day

YANGON'S Shwedagon Pagoda will hold ritual receptions for the public who want to practise fasting virtues on every Sabbath during the Buddhist Lent.

On the fasting days of the Lent, Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees will donate foodstuffs to the devotees and members of the Sangha.

Therefore, the trustees have invited any Buddhists to Shwedagon Pagoda on the fasting days during the Lent, take religious vows, and observe fasting.

On 12 July, on the full moon day of Vasa, people offered foods to the pagoda dedicating to the Lord Buddha at dawn, donated robes to the four Buddha images on the platform of the pagoda.

It is known that religious associations recited the Dhammacakka Sutta and donated offerings.—TWA/GNLM

Myanmar companies with 35% ownership of foreigners must convert foreign currency to Myanmar kyat

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) made an announcement on 15 July, stating that Myanmar companies with 35 per cent ownership of foreigners must convert foreign currencies from their foreign exchange accounts to Myanmar Kyat, according to the decision of the Foreign Exchange Supervisory Committee (FESC)'s meeting No 32/2022.

According to the statement, the list of Myanmar companies with foreigners' ownership up to 35 per cent has been sent together with the announcement to the foreign exchange authorized dealers (AD). The dealers are required to fill the blanks for the foreign currency account balance of the companies, which opened foreign exchange accounts in the respective banks through email by 6 pm on 15 July.

They will also be required to process the conversion of the foreign currency to Myanmar Kyat quickly and submit the amount to Bank-Customer (Bid) and Non-Trade Inward (Real Time-R) lists by 6 pm on 18 July.

If the instructions are not followed, action will be taken against the offenders under Section 35 of the Foreign Exchange Management Law.—TWA/GNLM



An aerial view of Central Bank of Myanmar.

Over 700,000 citizenship scrutiny cards issued to people from 2,139 villages in Yangon Region within 18 months



Officials are giving citizenship scrutiny cards to the people in Dala township through Pankhinn project in 2021.

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Immigration and Population, it has successfully issued more than 700,000 citizenship scrutiny cards to the people of 2,139 villages in Yangon Region within 18 months.

The ministry is working on the Pankhinn project, which has achieved cent per cent completion of the target in Yangon Region.

The phase 2 of the Pankhinn project for citizens who will turn 18 will be implemented for 17 months, said Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi in a coordination meeting held at 2 pm on 15 July.

The State Administration Council has set the Pankhinn project for 18 months from 3 May 2021 to 3 November 2022 and officials are targeting and setting the amount of work to be carried out by regions and states.

It is reported that 714,821 national identification cards were issued to the people from 14 districts, 45 townships, 743 wards and 2,139 villages in 621 village-tracts, through the Pankhinn project.

The ministry has announced that eight regions and states including Bago Region, Ayeyawady Region, Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay Region, Taninthayi Region, Magway Region, Rakhine State and Mon State have successfully completed the national target plan. —TWA/GNLM

PANDEMIC WORLD

7 members of Japanese team test positive for COVID-19 at athletics worlds



Seven members of the Japan team at the World Athletics Championships in Oregon have tested positive for Covid-19. **PHOTO: HANNAH PETERS /AFP**

SEVEN positive COVID-19 cases have occurred among Japan's marathon team at the World Athletics Championships Oregon22, organizers said on Saturday.

The cluster represents two athletes, four supporting staff of the endurance events, and the head coach of the team, a joint statement from the World Athletics, the LOC and the Japan Association of Athletics Federations said.

"In line with the COVID-19 protocols in place for the World Athletics Championships Oregon22 and in accordance with Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Guidelines, those who have tested positive have already been isolated and will remain in isolation for five days," read the statement.

"Steps are being taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19 both within the Japanese delegation as well as amongst all the teams present for the Championships," the statement said.

"All athletes have been fully vaccinated as a requirement for participation in these Championships." —Xinhua

Italy's COVID-19 cases surpass 20 mln

ITALY'S Ministry of Health reported nearly 90,000 new coronavirus infections Saturday, bringing the country's total number of officially diagnosed cases to 20.08 million since January 2020.

Italy became the seventh country to officially surpass 20 million cases, according to World Health Organization data. Those with more official cases are the United States, with more than 90 million official cases, followed by India, Brazil, France, Germany and Britain.

All those totals are almost certainly dramatic undercounts, since they do not include at-home tests or those cases that went undiagnosed or otherwise unreported.

The milestone is just the latest in a series of such pandemic-related milestones for Italy, which has been among the hardest-hit countries since the start of the pandemic.



Member of the medical staff wearing their Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)look at the scan of a patient's lungs at the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) hosting the COVID-19 patients at the ASST Papa Giovanni XXIII hospital in Bergamo, on 3 April 2020. **PHOTO: PIERO CRUCIATTI / AFP/FILE**

COVID-19 cases in Italy are on the rise again in recent weeks, with the daily infection regularly topping 100,000. But the mortality rate and the number of patients in intensive-care units is far below highs from earlier in the pandemic. —Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tunisia resumes Int'l Festival of Carthage amid COVID-19 resurgence

THE 56th International Festival of Carthage (FIC) has come back to Tunisia after a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and when a new wave of infections is striking across the country. The FIC has been a well-known musical event held in Tunisia since 1964. It takes place in July and August every year, with all shows performed in the Roman theatre of Carthage, a restored ancient theatre located on the outskirts of the capital. —Xinhua

Singapore reports 9,153 new COVID-19 cases

SINGAPORE reported 9,153 new cases of COVID-19 on Saturday, bringing the total tally to 1,589,099.
Of the new cases, 807 cases were detected through PCR (polymerase chain reaction) tests and 8,346 through ART (antigen rapid test) tests, according to statistics released by the Ministry of Health.
Among the PCR cases, 762 were local transmissions and 45 were imported cases. Among the ART cases with mild symptoms and assessed to be of low risk, there were 7,929 local transmissions and 417 imported cases, respectively. —Xinhua

Australia reinstates emergency pandemic payment for workers amid battle against COVID-19 in winter

AUSTRALIAN Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has bowed to pressure to reinstate the emergency pandemic leave payments for workers infected with the coronavirus.

Following an emergency meeting with state and territory leaders, Albanese on Saturday announced that up to 750 Australian dollars (509.6 million US dollars) of payment for workers forced to isolate due to COVID-19 will remain in place until 30 September.

It comes after Albanese faced criticism for not extending the scheme beyond its June 30 end date amid a new wave of COVID-19 infections in the current winter months.

Health Minister Mark Butler has warned "it's likely" over coming weeks that some millions of Australians will catch the virus, with some of them catching it again after perhaps having caught it earlier this year.

On Saturday, Albanese said the changed health circumstance in the new wave meant the payment would remain in place. —Xinhua



People walk near the Opera House in Sydney on 14 August 2021, as Australia's biggest city announced tighter Covid restrictions including heavier fines and tighter policing to contain a Delta outbreak. **PHOTO: SAEED KHAN / AFP**

ECONOMY
WORLD

NEWS IN BRIEF

Argentina urges G20 members to seek joint solutions to global inflation

ARGENTINE Economy Minister Silvina Batakis on Friday urged Group of 20 (G20) member countries to seek joint solutions to rising inflation worldwide.

"The rise in global inflation and, in particular, in food and energy prices, is not only increasing food and energy insecurity, but also global inequality," Batakis said in her address to a virtual gathering of G20 finance ministers and central bank presidents hosted by Indonesia. —Xinhua

Saudi sets maximum oil production at 13 mln barrels per day

SAUDI Arabian Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud said on Saturday that the kingdom will increase oil production to 13 million barrels per day at most, the Saudi Press Agency reported.

Saudi Arabia won't have the capability to raise production further, the crown prince was quoted as saying.

His announcement came during a summit in Jeddah with US President Joe Biden and leaders of other Gulf Cooperation Council member states, Egypt, Jordan and Iraq.

The crown prince said unrealistic energy policies would lead to higher inflation, urging unified efforts to support the world economy at a time of profound challenges. —Xinhua

China's industrial capacity utilization rate at 75.1 pct in Q2



A cold-rolled steel factory of Baosteel Co Ltd in Baoshan district, Shanghai. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

CHINA'S industrial capacity utilization rate came in at 75.1 percent in the second quarter (Q2) of 2022, down 3.3 percentage points from the previous year, data from the National Bureau of Statistics showed.

Among the three major sectors, the mining sector's utilization rate in Q2 stood at 76.7 percent, increasing 0.6 percentage points from the same period in 2021, data from the bureau showed.

The utilization rate of manufacturing came in at 75.4 percent, down 3.4 percentage points, while that of the production and supply of utilities stood at 70.6 per cent, down 4.1 percentage points from the previous year.

China's value-added industrial output, an important economic indicator, went up 0.7 per cent year on year in the second quarter of this year. — Xinhua

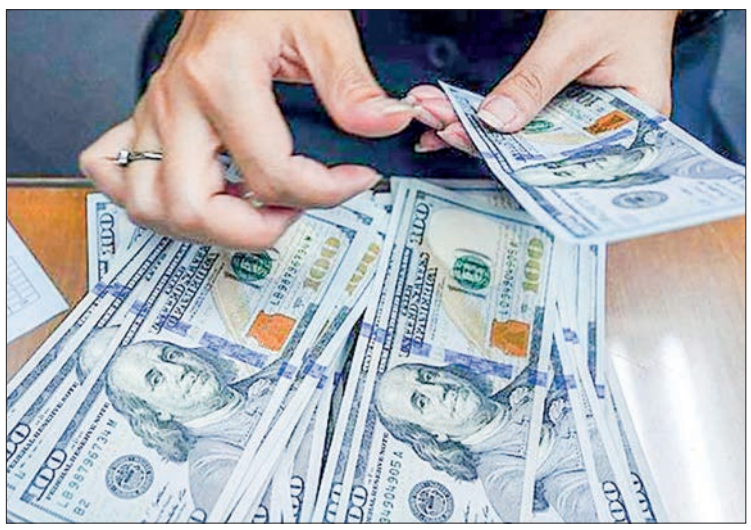
Indonesia's foreign debt fell to 406.3 bln USD in May

INDONESIA'S foreign debt stood at 406.3 billion US dollars in May, a fall from 410.1 billion US dollars in the previous month, the country's central bank, Bank Indonesia, said on Friday.

Head of the Communications Department of Bank Indonesia Erwin Haryono said that on an annual basis, foreign debt as of May contracted 2.6 per cent year-on-year (yoy), deeper than the previous month's contraction of 2.0 per cent yoy.

"This development was caused by the decline in foreign debt of the public and private sectors," said Haryono.

The government's foreign debt has decreased in recent months, which in May was recorded at 188.2 billion US dollars, as the maturity of several series of government bonds (SBN) and the influence of global sentiment triggered a shift in portfolio investment in the domestic SBN market by non-resident investors.



The government's foreign debt is relatively under control, as 99.8 per cent of it is long-term. **PHOTO: ANTARA/XINHUA**

The government's foreign debt is relatively under control, as 99.8 per cent of it is long-term, Haryono added.

Similarly, private foreign debt declined to 209.4 billion US dollars in May, from the previous month's 210.9 billion US dollars, with 74.4 per cent long-term.

Bank Indonesia sees the country's foreign debt structure as healthy and under control, as the ratio to gross domestic product is around 32.3 per cent, and the majority is long-term.

The state will continue to optimize the role of foreign debt to finance development and encourage national economic recovery by minimizing the risks, Haryono added.

G20 finance talks to end without joint communique: officials. —Xinhua

Italy raises growth forecast for 2022, risks from Ukraine crisis still loom large

THE Bank of Italy has raised its economic growth estimates for this year, but warned that the estimates could still be reduced dramatically if natural gas imports from Russia were cut off.

The bank on Friday predicted the economy would grow 3.2 per cent this year, up from an estimate of 3 per cent in its previous estimate from April. The new estimate was a dose of good news in Italy in a context of surging inflation.

On the same day, the National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT) confirmed earlier estimates showing that prices in June increased by 8 per cent year-on-year, a new record high, and by 1.2 per cent on a monthly basis.

Higher energy prices stemming from the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine were major factors impacting both the growth and inflation data. —Xinhua



A woman wearing a protection mask leaves after shopping at the Campo dei Fiori fruit and vegetable market in central Rome on 12 March 2020, as Italy shut all stores except for pharmacies and food shops in a desperate bid to halt the spread of a coronavirus. **PHOTO: VINCENZO PINTO / AFP/FILE**

US retail sales up 1.0 pct in June amid surging inflation

US retail sales rose by 1.0 per cent in June amid surging inflation, after dropping by a revised 0.1 per cent in previous month, the Commerce Department said Friday in a report.

Retail sales, which aren't adjusted for inflation, totalled 680.6 billion US dollars in June, according to the report. Total sales for the April through June period were up 8.1 per cent from a year ago.

The report showed that the April to May change was revised from down 0.3 per cent to down 0.1 per cent. April's retail sales were up 0.7 per cent.

Retail trade sales in June were up 1.0 per cent from May, and up 7.7 per cent above last year, the report showed. Gasoline stations were up 49.1 per cent from June 2021, while food services and drinking places were up 13.4 per cent from last year.

"The June retail sales report shows that consumers are still spending more but getting less," Tim Quinlan and Shannon Seery, economists at Wells Fargo Securities, wrote in an analysis. —Xinhua

China launches direct flights to Serbia



This photo shows Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic giving a speech at the welcome ceremony held at the Belgrade Nikola Tesla Airport on 16 July 2022. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

CHINA'S Hainan Airlines launched direct flights from China to Serbia on Saturday, as a welcome ceremony was held at the Belgrade Nikola Tesla Airport.

"We will be able to attract even more tourists and businessmen from China, which will bring China even closer to Serbia," said Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic, who attended the ceremony with several officials.

The first flight arrived on Saturday morning from Beijing and was welcomed by Vucic and the officials.

Chinese Ambassador to Serbia Chen Bo, who was among the passengers, also attended the ceremony.

"Not only that the direct flight will boost people-to-people exchange, but it will open new opportunities for cooperation between the two sides in all areas," said Chen.

"This flight will play a positive role in the cooperation between China and countries in the entire region, and thus the position of Serbia as a regional transport hub will be strengthened," she said.

Hainan Airlines launched its first flight to Belgrade via Prague in September 2017, which was suspended in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. —Xinhua

Iraq's date palms: rescuing a national icon



According to official figures, Iraq exported almost 600,000 tonnes of dates in 2021, with the World Bank saying the fruit is the country's second largest export commodity after oil. **PHOTO: ASAAD NIAZI/AFP**

THOUSANDS of young date palms, Iraq's national symbol, form lines that extend from the edge of the desert near the central city of Karbala and into the horizon. Iraq's prized trees are central to a push aimed to preserve a long-threatened ancestral culture, whose fruit historically presented prosperity across the Arab world. "The date palm is the symbol and pride of Iraq," says Mohamed Abul-Maali, commercial director at the Fadak date plantation. —AFP

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS
MYANMA RAILWAYS
INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

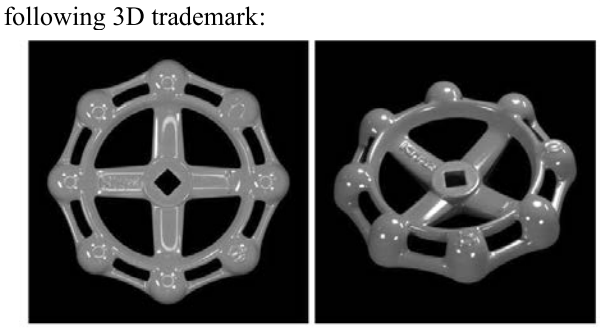
1. Open Tender is invited for supply of the following item in Euro.

Sr No	Tender No	Description
1.	15(T)3/MR(E)/Euro 2022-2023	Spare parts for Automatic Levelling, Lining & Tamping Machine, Profile Ballast Regulating Machine and Flash Butt Welding Machine (126) Items
	Closing Date & Time-	18-8-2022 (Thursday) (14:30) Hrs

2. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 18-7-2022 during office hours and for further detail please contact: Deputy General Manager Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung, Yangon. Phone-95-1-291985, 291994

TRADEMARK CAUTION

KITZ CORPORATION, a company registered under the laws of Japan, which is located at 10-1, Nakase 1-chome, Mihama-ku, Chiba-shi, Chiba, Japan, is the sole owner of the following 3D trademark:



Reg. No. 4684/2022
In respect of Class 6: Manually-operated metal valves.
In respect of Class 7: Manually-operated metal valves, being parts of machines, not for land vehicles.

KITZ CORPORATION claims the trademark rights and other relevant intellectual property rights for the mark as mentioned above. KITZ CORPORATION reserves the rights to take legal measures against any infringer who violates its intellectual property or other legal rights in accordance with the concerned laws of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Daw Khin Myo Myo Aye, LL.B., Advocate (14833)
For **KITZ CORPORATION**
Tilleke & Gibbins Myanmar Ltd. No. 1608, 16th Floor, Sakura Tower, 339 Bogyoke Aung San Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar.
Email address: myanmar@tilleke.com
Dated: July 18, 2022.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V X-PRESS MEGHNA VOY.NO. (22012S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V X-PRESS MEGHNA VOY.NO. (22012S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **18-7-2022** 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

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GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Biden lost trust of Palestinians by ignoring Palestinian cause: analysts

US President Joe Biden's ignoring of the Palestinian-Israeli issue made him lose the "last chance" to be trusted by the Palestinians, forcing the Palestinian leadership to search for a new international sponsor, analysts said.

On Friday, Biden arrived in the West Bank city of Bethlehem for a short visit to meet his Palestinian counterpart Mahmoud Abbas, after a 40-hour visit to Israel.

Biden said at a joint news conference following the meeting that "the U.S. commitment to the goal of a two-state solution has not changed," but added that the goal may seem "unattainable."



Biden said at a joint news conference following the meeting that "the US commitment to the goal of a two-state solution has not changed," but added that the goal may seem "unattainable." US President Joe Biden (L) is received by Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas in Bethlehem, 15 July 2022. **PHOTO: MANDEL NGAN / AFP**

Biden announced that the United States would provide 200 million U.S. dollars in funds to the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) for its critical role in the region.

During a trip to a local hospital, he also pledged to provide 100 million dollars to the East Jerusalem Hospital Network, which includes six health institutions and works to serve the Palestinians in Jerusalem.

Mohammed Hijazi, a Gaza-based political analyst, told Xinhua that "Biden is just offering Palestinians' money in exchange for not demanding any political move."

"The previous U.S. administrations, despite their failure to do so, were seeking to put forward a complete project to settle the Palestinian issue, but the Biden administration deliberately marginalized the issue and made it an internal Israeli affair," he added.

Such a procedure would allow the Israelis to expand settlement activities and commit more political, economic, and field violations against the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, noted Hijazi.

Adel Samara, another Ramallah-based political analyst, told Xinhua that "Biden is doing his best to transform the Palestinian cause from a political issue into humanitarian and economic issues by coming to the region to provide financial aid to a group of starving poor." —Xinhua

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

HERE are the latest developments in the war in Ukraine:

Russian strike death toll rises to 24

THE death toll of a Russian missile strike on the central Ukrainian city of Vinnytsia on Thursday rises to 24, after a woman dies in hospital of her burn wounds, a Ukrainian official says.

Russia claims the strikes – hundreds of kilometres from the front lines – had targeted a meeting of Ukrainian military officials and foreign arms suppliers. Kyiv has denied these claims and says the attack killed three children.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has said he was "appalled" by the attack, while the EU has slammed it as an "atrocity".

Russia under fire at G20

WESTERN finance ministers on the island of Bali for two-day G20 talks condemn Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, accusing Russian officials of complicity in atrocities committed during the war.

"Russia is solely responsible for negative spillovers to the global economy," US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen tells the Russian delegation in the opening session.

She is joined by Canadian Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland, who tells Russia's delegation they are responsible for "war crimes" in Ukraine because of their support for the invasion.

Next target: Siversk

MOSCOW-BACKED troops in the Donbas region in eastern Ukraine say they are closing in on their next target, after wresting control of sister cities Lysychansk and Severodonetsk.

"Siversk is under our operational control, which means that the enemy can be hit by our aimed fire all over the area," a pro-Moscow rebel official is cited as saying by Russian state-run news agency TASS.

SOURCE: AFP

US troops continue to smuggle Syrian oil into Iraq: media

THE US forces smuggled 40 truckloads of stolen Syrian oil from northeastern Syria into Iraq on Saturday, Syrian state news agency SANA reported.

The oil was taken from the Rmailan area in the northeastern Syrian province of Hasaka, said the report.

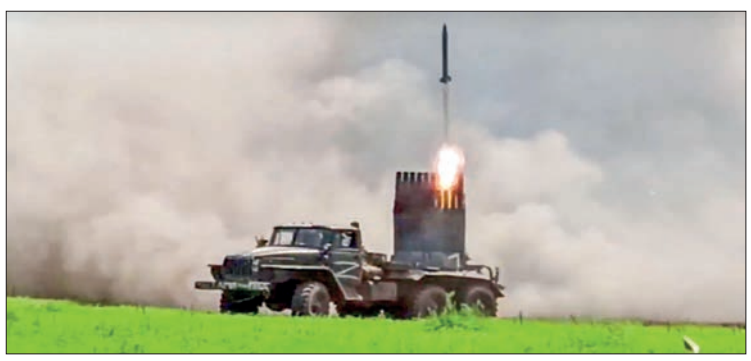
The US convoy, escorted by armored vehicles, also transported truckloads of weaponry from Hasakah into Iraq through an illegal crossing, SANA added.

The Syrian government has repeatedly accused the U.S. forces of stealing Syrian oil and depriving the Syrians of their own resources amid a harsh economic situation caused largely by the US sanctions.

The US forces have established various bases in the oil-rich areas in Hasakah and took control of the oil and gas fields there. —Xinhua

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

EU mulls sanctions as Russia accused of shelling Ukraine from nuclear plant



This handout photo taken from video released by Russian Defence Ministry Press Service on Saturday, 16 July 2022, shows the Russian military s Grad multiple rocket launcher firing rockets at Ukrainian troops at an undisclosed location. **PHOTO: RUSSIAN DEFENCE MINISTRY PRESS SERVICE /AFP**

THE European Union will discuss tightening sanctions against Russia on Monday, as Moscow is accused of using the continent's largest nuclear power plant to store weapons and launch missiles on the surrounding regions of southern Ukraine.

The situation at the captured Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant is "extremely tense", Ukraine's atomic energy agency chief Petro Kotin said, adding that the Russians had installed missile launchers and used the facility to shell the Dnipro region.

Describing "a deluge of fire", regional governor Valentyn Reznichenko on Saturday said Grad missiles had pounded residential areas. "Rescuers found two dead people under the ruins" in the riverside city of Nikopol, he said. —AFP

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Tokyo falls to 9th most expensive city for expats amid weak yen



Photo taken 25 February 2017, from the roof of the Roppongi Hills building complex shows Tokyo's Shinjuku area, the Japanese capital's subcenter. **PHOTO: KYODO**

TOKYO has tumbled to the ninth-most expensive city for people working abroad in 2022 from third a year earlier, partly due to the weakening of the yen against the US dollar and other major currencies, according to an annual cost of living survey by a US consulting firm.

The Mercer's Cost of Living Survey comes as the effects of the coronavirus pandemic, now in its third year, the consequences of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, varying exchange rates, and surging prices put a squeeze on pay and savings across the world.

Hong Kong topped the list of the priciest cities in the world, a return to pole position after ceding it to Turkmenistan's capital Ashgabat in 2021.

Hong Kong was previously named the most expensive city for three consecutive years to 2020.

Asian cities occupied four of the top 10, with Singapore, Tokyo and Beijing accounting for places eight through 10.

In a separate Asian top 10 ranking, Chinese cities filled six spots, a development Mercer put down to the Chinese yuan's strength making the country's mainland more expensive to live in.

Conversely, a relative affordability rise in Japanese and Korean cities was attributed to the effects of their weaker currencies.

Tracey Ma, Mercer's regional mobility leader for the Asia Pacific, said high prices and strong currencies elsewhere in the region "continue to propel Asia as one of the most expensive regions for international employees."

Last week, the Japanese yen fell to the 139 level against the dollar, the lowest in 24 years.

A Bank of Japan survey released July 6 also showed nearly 90 percent of Japanese consumers have felt that prices have risen in the last year — the highest proportion to say so in 14 years.

As for the rest of the international top 10, the Swiss cities of Zurich, Geneva, Basel and Bern occupied slots two to five, respectively, and were the only European representation in the top flight. Tel Aviv and New York City came in at sixth and seventh, respectively. —Kyodo

Sri Lankan court issues order barring former PM, finance minister from leaving country

SRI Lanka's Supreme Court issued an order on Friday barring former Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and former Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa from leaving the country without approval of the court until 28 July.

A motion was filed on 13 July, seeking an order prohibiting the two former senior officials, former Central Bank Governor Ajith Nivard Cabraal and several other people from leaving the country, local media reported.

The motion also requested that an investigation be launched against the individuals responsible for the current economic situation in the South Asian country.



Motorists queue along a street to buy fuel from Lanka IOC fuel station in Colombo on 24 May 2022. **PHOTO: KODIKARA / AFP/FILE**

Sri Lanka has been facing a severe economic crisis which has sparked protests. On Friday Sri Lankan Parliament Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena announced the official resignation of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, before Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe was sworn in as an interim president. —Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Leaders vow for security, stability in Mideast at Jeddah summit

A statement was announced Saturday following the "Jeddah Summit for Security and Development," emphasizing the importance to take the required measures to protect the security and stability in the Middle East, the Saudi Press Agency reported. Hosted by Saudi Arabia, the summit was attended by leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and the United States. –Xinhua

Ukrainian cargo plane crashes in Greece

A Ukrainian cargo plane with an eight-member crew on board crashed near Kavala city in northern Greece on Saturday evening, Greek media reported.

The Antonov An-12 plane was on route from Serbia to Jordan as the pilot requested permission for an emergency landing and notified Greek authorities of failure in one of the engines, Greek national broadcaster ERT reported, citing sources from the Greek Civil Aviation Authority. –Xinhua

Mexican president urges need to regularize migrant workers in US

MEXICAN President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador on Friday stressed the need for the US government to regularize the status of Mexican migrants who have been working in the United States for many years.

In the wake of his meeting with USPresident Joe Biden in Washington on Tuesday, Lopez Obrador reiterated at his daily press conference that the US government said at the meeting it was committed to issuing more temporary work visas for Mexican and Central American migrants, but did not specify a number.

"Progress was made regarding an increase in temporary work visas and I raised the need to regularize Mexicans who have been working in the United States for years," Lopez Obrador told journalists at the National Palace in Mexico City.

Lopez Obrador said he told Biden, "we must not continue the same policy" on immigration matters. —Xinhua



A group of about 30 Brazilian migrants, who had just crossed the border, sit on the ground near US Border Patrol agents, on the property of Jeff Allen, who used to run a brick factory near Mt. Christo Rey on the US-Mexico border in Sunland Park, New Mexico on 20 March 2019. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE PAUL RATJE / AFP/FILE**

SPORT

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Biden lost trust of Palestinians by ignoring Palestinian cause: analysts

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PSG arrive in Japan for three-game tour



Paris Saint-Germain's (L-R) Kylian Mbappe, Lionel Messi and Neymar attend a press conference with Japanese player Kazuyoshi Miura Sunday. **PHOTO: AFP**

PARIS Saint-Germain's star-studded squad landed in Japan Sunday for a three-game tour against local teams, with new manager Christophe Galtier hoping to make a strong start with the French giants.

PSG, featuring attacking trio Kylian Mbappe, Neymar and Lionel Messi, will take on J-League sides Kawasaki Frontale, Urawa Reds and Gamba Osaka during their 10-day stay in Japan.

The French champions will then head to Israel to face Cup-winners Nantes in the French Super Cup in Tel Aviv on August 31. Galthier will lead PSG for the first time since arriving from Nice to take over from Mauricio Pochettino in the summer, and the 55-year-old is eager to get started.

"We have three games against very good opposition," Galthier said at a Tokyo press conference in front of around 100 reporters.

"Japanese football is at a very high level, with players with good technique and speed. I hope these matches will be good preparation for the French Super Cup in Tel Aviv."—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.

San Thaw Thaw's hat trick helps Myanmar winning third in AFF Women's Championship



Myanmar's youth player San Thaw Thaw celebrate the victory after scoring the fourth or winning goal for team Myanmar during the AFF Women's Championship third place match against Viet Nam at Memorial Stadium in Manila, the Philippines on 17 July, 2022. **PHOTO:MFF**

THANKS to the hat trick scored by youth player San Thaw Thaw, team Myanmar won the third place in the AFF Women's Championship 2022 with a 4-3 victory over Viet Nam after their third-place match played at Rizal Memorial Stadium in Manila, the Philippines yesterday. Myanmar team came out with a 4-4-2 style with full set of strong players including Captain Khin Malar Tun, Win Theingi Tun, goalie May Zin Nwe, San Thaw Thaw and Chit Chit. Since it was a third-place match, the competition was intense, and in the 9th minute of the first half, San Thaw Thaw scored the opening goal for the Myanmar team and took the lead.

After conceding a goal, the Vietnamese team increased their attack and scored the equalizing goal in the 23rd minute of the match by team Captain Huynh Nhu. After that, Huynh Nhu scored the second goal for the Vietnamese team, and at the end of the first half, team Viet Nam led the Myanmar by 2-1. At the restart of the second half, the Myanmar team put pressure on the Vietnamese team, and in the 56th minute of the game, San Thaw Thaw scored the equalizing goal, and the score was tied at 2-2.

Next in the 80th minute of the game, the Viet Nam got the third goal due to a misunderstanding between the Myanmar team's defensive line and the goalkeeper.

After allowing the lead goal, the Myanmar team continued to attack and in the 83rd minute of the game, substitute Lin Myint Mo scored the equalizer.

The fourth or winning goal was scored in the 86th minute of the match by San Thaw Thaw, who got a hat trick in the match. At the end of the game, Myanmar won the third place by beating Viet Nam team 4-3. "I am very happy with today's win. I am even more happy to have won the best player award and scored a hat trick for today's match," Myanmar star player San Thaw Thaw said at the press conference after the match. "It was only because our team was united and did not give up that we got the third place. Without the coaches' training and my teammates, it would be impossible to score a hat trick like this. I am very proud and thankful to my teammates for today's win," San Thaw Thaw added. "Today's victory of my players depended on the unity of the team. This result is mainly because the players were able to take lessons from the mistakes of the previous matches and rebuild themselves individually," said Myanmar team head coach Daw Thet Thet Win. "Congratulations to the players. We still have a lot to do to improve Myanmar women's football. We have to work harder for the players to become more professional. We must work together to have more players who can play internationally," the coach added. In the final match, the Philippines team beat Thailand team and won the AFF Women's Championship 2022 title.—GNLM