THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IX, No. 100, 13th Waning of Waso 1384 ME | www.gnlm.com.mm | Monday, 25 July 2022

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.

Sagaing Region accounts for 60 per cent of Myanmar's honey production





Beehives laid in cropland are filled with bees. **PHOTO : LULAY**

SAGAING Region contributes 60 per cent of overall honey production, according to the Apiculture Division.

Myanmar ships 4,000 tonnes of honey to external markets and the remaining is supplied to domestic markets. There are nearly 900 beekeepers executing 200,000 beehives across the country. Myanmar's annual honey production is estimated at nearly 6,000 tonnes, according to the regional Apiculture Division.

Myanmar's honey is priced at $1,600 per tonne, according to the news released by the Ministry of Commerce.

"Myanmar's honey is primarily delivered to China, Japan, Thailand, Singapore and South Korea. The officials are trying to connect to new trade partners in Europe," said an official of the division.

Myanmar conveyed over 1,000 metric tons of honey to foreign trade partners in the six-month mini-budget period (2021-2022), generating an income of US$11 million, according to official statistics released by the Apiculture Division under the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department. The beekeepers practice migratory beekeeping, which is the seasonal transport of hives so that honeybees can pollinate plum, lychee, niger, sunflower, pigeon pea, rubber, monsoon sesame, corn and various vegetables in bloom.

SEE PAGE-2

COVID-19 vaccine drive continues in various states, regions

DOCTORS and nurses from public hospitals, Tatmadaw medical teams, healthcare workers and volunteers are working hard to give COVID-19 vaccines in different states and regions as the vaccination programme is one of the most important activities in the prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 disease.

COVID-19 vaccine is administered daily to target groups regardless of race or religion, including Buddhist monks and nuns, local people over the age of 40, students, religious leaders, prisoners, people with disabilities, ethnic armed groups, people with chronic diseases, people in IDP camps and over 12-year-old students, respectively.

Yesterday, doctors and nurses from public hospitals, medical teams from the Tatmadaw, relevant healthcare workers in collaboration with volunteers gave COVID-19 vaccines to 5,960 people from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, and

SEE PAGE-2

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL
Myanmar delegation arrives back after attending the open court at the International Court of Justice
PAGE-3

NATIONAL
Plans underway to conduct Russian language courses in Yangon, PyinOoLwin
PAGE-4

CURRENT AFFAIRS
K400 billion to be disbursed at soft interest rate
PAGE-5



NATIONAL
Growers eye Konjac for mixed cropping in Palauk as it raises profitability
PAGE-7

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

State Administration Council Information Team to holds 18th Press Conference

THE Information Team of the State Administration Council will hold the 18th Press Conference at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw at 1 pm on 26 July. Local and foreign media are invited to the press conference, it is learnt.—MNA

MRTV to broadcast of SAC Information Team 18th Press Conference live

THE Information Team of the State Administration Council will hold the press conference 18/2022 at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw at 1 pm on 26 July.

The conference will be broadcast live on MRTV-HD, MRTV News Channel, MWD HD Channel, MWD Variety HD Channel, MITV, MOI Website, MOI Youtube, MRTV Website and aired live on Radio Myanmar, Thazin FM, Star FM, Mandalay FM, Pyinsawady FM, Shwe FM, Padamyar FM, Cherry FM and FM Bagan. —MNA

Sagaing Region accounts for 60 per cent of Myanmar's honey production

FROM PAGE-1

Myanmar is one of the green list countries for honey exports to the European Union as Myanmar's honey meets food safety criteria, according to the LBDV. Starting from 2007, Myanmar has been checking the residue of pesticide and other chemicals in honey under the National Chemical Residue Monitoring Programme. Moreover, 2 million acres of crops yearly contributes to bee pollination every year. This year, 11 per cent of sunflower sown acreage are designated for pollen sources this year.

"Myanmar has regular trade partner countries. Expansion of business is required to increase foreign income. Sagaing Region is the main producer of honey. Mon State also started engaging in honey production as well. Advanced beekeeping techniques should be adopted for higher honey production in the private sector as it could effectuate the development of the rural community," said U Kyaw Kyaw Oo, in-charge of Apiculture Division.



Beehives are seen with numbers of bees. **PHOTO : LULAY**

Beekeeping business commenced in 1979 in Myanmar and Myanmar's honey penetrated foreign market in 1985. Buyers prefer sunflower honey, palm honey and sesame honey. Of them, sunflower honey is highly demanded in the international markets. China is the biggest exporter of honey in the world and Viet Nam, Myanmar and Thailand are the largest producers among the regional countries.—Lu Lay/ KK/GNLM

COVID-19 vaccine drive continues in various states, regions

FROM PAGE-1

2,033 people from seven townships in Rakhine State, 19,109 people from seven districts in Mandalay Region and 345 people from Bago Township, Bago Region respectively.

Similarly, healthcare officials gave the vaccines to 375 students from four townships in Rakhine State.

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

Punishment conducted for four death-sentenced prisoners under the law

BRUTAL murdering cases happened in the nation as of 14 March 2021. As Phyo Zeyar Thaw (a) Maung Kyaw (a) Ye Khe, Kyaw Min Yu (a) Jimmy, Hla Myo Aung (a) Ko Myo (a) Wetgyi and Aung Thura Zaw (a) Gatone (a) Thura gave directives, made arrangements, and committed conspiracies for brutal and inhumane terror acts such as murdering, many innocent people died in cases. Hence, relevant military tribunals charged them for their cases under relevant sections of the Counter-Terrorism Law and the Penal Code and handed down the death sentence each to those four culprits. According to the relevant department, the punishment has been conducted under the prison's procedures.—MNA

Further invitation to remnant groups to hold talks

DEMOCRACY as well as federalism requires equal rights. Talks will continue with the ethnic armed organizations to restore peace.

Good results came out from the talks with EAOs. Efforts will continue to restore peace by holding better talks.

Some EAOs cannot participate in the talks for various reasons. In line with the firm implementation of two political visions, the government further invites remnant groups to hold talks.

(The excerpt from the speech delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in meeting with ministers of Yangon Region government on 9 June 2022.)

Myanmar delegation arrives back after attending the open court at the International Court of Justice

MYANMAR delegation led by H.E. U Ko Ko Hlaing, Agent of Myanmar and Union Minister for International Cooperation, and H.E. Dr. Thi Da Oo, Alternate Agent of Myanmar and Union Minister for Legal Affairs and Union Attorney-General, attended the open court at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague, the Netherlands on 22 July 2022.

The Gambia filed the case against Myanmar at the International Court of Justice on 11 November 2019, alleging violation of the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

The International Court of Justice delivered its judgement in respect of the preliminary objections raised by Myanmar on 22 July 2022.

It is learned that the Myanmar delegation who attended the aforementioned open court, departed from Amsterdam International Airport at 2050 hrs on 23 July 2022 and safely arrived back at Yangon International Airport at 2107 hrs on 24 July 2022. —MNA

Union Industry Minister inspects factories in Mandalay Region



IT is necessary to supervise control of quality for all production process and make efforts for successfully manufacturing import-substitute products, said Union Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than yesterday.

At No 8 Textile Factory Branch (Yamethin) in Yamethin of Mandalay Region, the Union Minister met with general managers and factory manager, urging employees to enhance capacity in their professions.

Officials reported on running of the factory and financial matters.

At No 8 Textile Factory (Pyawbwe), the Union minister instructed officials to coordinate industrial and economic measures of the factories through comprehensive studies, manage cutting cost for each unit product and produce quality goods, draw business plans for operating all factories, try hard to successfully manufacture import-substitute goods to cut spending of foreign exchange of the State.

He also inspected production process of threads and the laboratory of threads.—MNA

Union Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than inspects machinery at No 8 Textile Factory (Pyawbwe) in Pyawbwe of Mandalay Region on 24 July.

(၁၁) ကြိမ်မြောက်
တိုင်းရင်းဆေးသုတေသနစာတမ်းဖတ်ပွဲ
The 11th Traditional Medicine Research Congress
၂၀၂၂ ခုနှစ် ၊ ဇူလိုင်လ ၂၇-၂၈ ရက်နေ့

TradeMark Ads
Call 09251022355, 09974424848

Daily imports of essential Anti-Covid-19 equipment conducted in smooth process



THE Ministry of Commerce supervises the import of essential medical supplies as well as anti-Covid-19 prevention, control and treatment activities through border trade posts, international airports and seaports.

Two companies imported 75 tonnes of disposable face masks by 11 vehicles from Chinshwehaw border trade camp.

Officials from relevant departments provided necessary facilities in order to beef up the standard operating procedures-SOP for the import process.

The public can browse the Ministry's Website — www.commerce.gov.mm — for notifications on the importation of medicines and related accessories. —MNA

Plans underway to conduct Russian language courses in Yangon, PyinOoLwin

MYANMAR has to make preparation to be readiness to give services as good opportunity comes out for penetrating into the Russian tourism market, said Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Htay Aung in meeting with officials of Directorate of Hotels and Tourism from Mandalay Region and PyinOoLwin township and the PwinOoLwin hotel zone chairman and executives on 23 July.

Arrangements are being made to conduct the Russian language course in Yangon in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, adding local authorities, private sector and local people are to cooperate with each other in successfully holding the Russian language course for hotels and tourism services in PyinOoLwin to be conducted by the Defence Services Academy.



Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Htay Aung meets departmental officials and officials of hotels and tourism organizations in PyinOoLwin Township on 23 July.

The Union Minister also met with senior military officers from Defence Services Academy and PyinOoLwin hotel zone to discuss opening of Russian language course in the township.

In meeting with PyinOoLwin Township Administration Body and officials of PyinOoLwin hotel zone at Nan Htaik Thu Hotel, the Union Minister urged officials to cooperate with hotels and tourism organizations to implement the running of steam locomotive train trip.

While in Mandalay, the Union minister held talks with faculty members from Mandalay University of Foreign Languages and Mandalar University about conducting the Russian language course in Mandalay.

In meeting with Mandalay Region Economic Minister U Thein Htay and officials, the Union minister stressed the need to prevent new variants of Covid-19 and abide by health and safety protocols issued by the ministry, urging officials of hotels and lodges to follow the implementation of Guest List Management System (GLMS).—MNA

Yangon Mayor inspects water supply, greenery and road development

YANGON Region Development Affairs Minister Yangon City Development Committee Chairman (Mayor) U Bo Htay and officials visited Hlawga watershed area in Pyinmabin Village, Mingaladon Township yesterday and inspected the planting of trees and the preparation for further growing of trees.



Yangon Mayor U Bo Htay inspects water supply facilities in Mingaladon Township on 24 July.

At Hlawga Reservoir in Mingaladon Township, he inspected the reservoirs and water filters.

They met with officials from the Engineering Department (Water and Sanitation) in the meeting hall of the Hlawga Reservoir, and fulfilled the necessary orders and watched the families of employees playing futsal.

The Hlawga Reservoir is a type of earthen dam that was built in 1900 and completed in 1904 to supply water to Yangon. It was able to store 12,000 million gallons of water.

Water has been supplied from Phugyi Lake into Hlawga Reservoir since 1989 and through Aung Dagun water pump since 2010. Now, water is being supplied from the Zukkanok Lake.

It is reported that 90 million gallons of water has been added to the Phugyi pipeline from the Kankalay Hline river pumping project in Hmawby Township.

Next, the mayor visited the Mingalar Lake between No. 1 Defence Services General Hospital and the Defence Services Medical Academy of Migaladon Township.

At the intersection of Mindhamma Road on the southern side of Parami Road in Ward 12 in Hline Township, the mayor inspected the construction of an 8-foot wide bicycle path by laying a drain cover slab on the brick drain between Mindhamma Road and Thamine College Road, including landscaping between Mindhamma Road and Insein Road.

He also inspected the construction of a pedestrian and bicycle path, including landscaping, between Thamine College Road and the Department of Applied Geology.—MNA

11 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 24 July, total figure rises to 613,951

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **613,951** after **11** new cases were reported on 24 July 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **592,809** 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 23-7-2022, a total of **30,048,827** people above 18 have been vaccinated. A total of **5,932,768** people under 18 have been vaccinated. —MNA

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
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

Printed and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

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

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email **aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm** with your name and title.

Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish **"Letter to the Editor"** that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

K400 billion to be disbursed at soft interest rate

THE Minstry of Planning and Finance stated that a plan is underway to disburse K400 billion to local businesses at soft interest rate.

According to the press release issued on 23 July, Union ministers and region/state governments are systematically spending the national natural disaster management fund on undertakings of the Covid-19 prevention, control and treatment under the permission of the Covid-19 prevention, control and treatment national central committee. Till 14 July 2022, the remainng amount of the fund totalled K491.978 billion.

Now, as the infection rate of the pandemic much declienes, efforts will be made for surging the State economy in all aspects, according to the press release.

K400 billion from the fund will be disbursed to local budinesses at soft interest rate under the supervision of the Ministry of Planning and Finance.

According to the Ministry of Health, 11 patients was found with positive result in laboratory test over 3,907 lab samples from 8 pm on 23 July to 8 pm on 24 July, with 0.28 per cent of infection rate.—TWA/GNLM



Five injured in vehicles' collision between bus and truck on Pyay-Aunglan Road

FIVE people were injured in a collision between a bus and a truck on the Pyay-Aunglan Road in Bago Region, according to the Myanmar Social Rescue Organization (Pyay).

At around 8:00 am on 24 July, a truck and a bus collided near No 10 Police Battalion on the Pyay-Aunglan road.

In the incident, the bus plunged into the roadside, leaving five passengers injured.

It is reported that the injured were taken to Pyay General Hospital for emergency care after first-aid treatment performed by the Myanmar Social Aid Organization (Pyay) and the Young Hearts Association.—TWA/GNLM



The bus plunges into roadside. **PHOTO: MYANMAR SOCIAL AID ORGANIZATION (PYAY)**

PHOTO NEWS





PHOTO : MFSD

BUILDING COLLAPSES: The collapse of a building, leaving two males dead and three males injured is situated on 29th street between 84th and 85th streets, West ward, Chanayethazan township, Mandalay Region at 3:43 pm on 24 July.

Officials from the office of the head of Mandalay Region Fire Services Department, two administrative vehicles and two rescue vehicles from Chanayethazan Fire Station, search and rescue team members, auxiliary fire brigade members, seven vehicles from charity teams and members and relevant organizations rushed to the scene for conducting search and rescue works. —GNLM

Over 3,000 stalls allotted at Danyingon Market Complex-2

ACCORDING to the Yangon City Development Committee, there will be more than 3,000 stalls in Danyingon Market Complex-2 to allow the sales of fruits, vegetables and related products.

A total of 3,304 plots for stall were allotted for farmers' retail shops. It will be allowed to rent and sell separately for 5 feet x 5 feet and 5 feet x 8 feet spaces.

Rental fee was set at K51,000 for a 5 feet x 5 feet stall and K72,000 a 5 feet x 8 feet stall. Vendors will be charged at K800 per stall at day time and K900 at night.

There are 1,120 stalls at Danyingon Wholesale Market Complex-1. There are two types of shop space, 5ft x 11ft and 5ft x 13ft, which will be leased soon.

As for the rent of shops that will sell fruits and vegetables, K100,000 per 5 feet x 11 feet room and K125,000 per 5 feet x 13 feet room will be charged each month. Renters can make payment for the shop once a month, and those who want to rent will be able to sign a one-year contract.

It is reported that construction of the three-storey building for shop houses on the east side of Danyingon Wholesale Market Complex-2 will finish soon. —TWA/GNLM



Vendors are selling vegetables at Danyingon Market Complex-2 of YCDC.

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, consumer goods, foodstuffs, fuel, working materials and vehicles confiscated



Boats and rafts are seized together with mining equipment in Myitkyina Township of Kachin State on 22 July.

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

A combined inspection team under the supervision of Customs department made inspections in Mayanchaung checkpoint at Mon state on 21 July. They seized a Dong Feng tractor head vehicle worth K40 million, which is without licence and the action was taken under the Customs Law.

Similarly, under the supervision of the Anti-Illegal trade special task force of Sagaing Region, led by the Myanmar Police Force searched at Kyauktan-Wuntho-Pinlebu road on 22 July. The team impounded 11,100 gallons of illegal diesel (estimated value K111 millions) and action was taken under the Petroleum and Petroleum Product Law.

A combined team seized 0.7174 tonne of illegal timbers worth K473,484 at Kyaukdaga township, Bago district and action was taken under the Forest Law.

Furthermore, under the supervision of the Anti-Illegal trade special task force, a combined team led by the Myitkyina Township Department of Mining made inspections at an illegal gold mine with bamboo raft, near Makhaodi village on the eastern bank of Ayeyawady river on 22 July. The team impounded 12 bamboo rafts installed with the engines worth some K6 million. The team inspection was at near Labanrozana village in Myitkyina Township on 23 July. The team impounded a bamboo raft and five iron pontoons (estimated value of K5.6 million), which are installed with one engine each used for illegal gold mining in Ayeyawady river. Action was taken under the Mining Law.

Similarly, under the supervision of the Mon State Anti-Illegal Trade Special Task Force, a combined team led by the Head of Mawlamyine Township Customs Department made inspections in Mudon township on 23 July. The team seized a vehicle driven from Phayathonsu to Mudon, carrying illegal fertilizer (estimated value K5.5 million), without official documents and a vehicle, Nissan Condor worth K40 million. And the team impounded kitchen wares (estimated K8.999 million) and two vehicles (estimated value K50 million), which are carried kitchen wares. Total worth of seizures amounted to K104,499,000 and action was taken under the Customs Law.

Therefore, 14 cases (estimated value of K267,572,484) were taken action from 21 to 23 July, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. —MNA





Bags of fertilizers and cartons of kitchen wares are seized in Mudon Township on 23 July.

Drugs seized in Mansi, Myawady, Sittway, Kutkai, Nawnghkio townships



Nyi Khan (aka) Nyi Lar seen with seized packets of heroin in Kutkai Township on 23 July.

STIMULANT tablets were seized in Mansi, Myawady, Sittway, Kutkai and Nawnghkio townships, Myanmar Police Force stated.

A combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force searched Ma Khin Nyunt, who is on suspicious at the Hanhtet-Mantha village-tract, near Manra village, Mansi township at 2:15 pm on 23 July. They found 4,750 stimulant tablets and 0.55 kilogramme of raw opium. A team consisting of Anti-Drug Police Force searched a Honda step wagon, which is stopped on Yaypu street, No 5 ward, Myawady at 5:20 pm. They found Sanda Kyaw (aka) Thar Gyi (aka) Wa Toke, Ma Naw Phaw Bum (aka) Anaw and Ma Khin Thidar Tun from the vehicle and seized 9,750 stimulant tablets.

Similarly, the Anti-Drug Task Force raded Ma Cho Mar Khine (aka) Yaryi's house, located on Manipura Street, Kathe ward in Sittway township on 5:15 pm and seized 6,970 stimulant pills. As an interrogation results, drug dealer U Khin Maunug was arrested at his house, located at No B/17, Bawdi street, Sittway township on 5:30 pm. The Special Task Force of Anti-Drug Police Force searched a motorbike driven by Nyi Khan (aka) Nyi Lar and found 1.1 kilo of heroin in the front of No 2 ward's lodge, Kutkai township at 9:20 am on 23 July.

Likewise, the team searched a motorbike driven by Seng Du (aka) Mar Noung in the Mandalay-Lashio highway, near Oriental tollgate, Pahat ward in Nawnghkio township at 9:30 am on 23 July. They impounded 59,800 stimulant tablets from him.

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

Growers eye Konjac for mixed cropping in Palauk as it raises profitability

HIGH profitability and foreign demand prompted locals in Palauk town, Palaw Township of Taninthayi Region to cultivate Konjac (elephant yam) under a mixed cropping system so the number of Konjac growers on a commercial scale has grown, according to the Agriculture Department in Palauk Town.

Earlier, the growers were not interested in Konjac as it had only domestic demand. At present, Konjac has penetrated some foreign markets so the locals are increasingly engaged in multiple cropping in rubber plantations with Konjac.

"Konjac started to be grown in our town two years ago. It solely relied on domestic markets. However, foreign demand elevated the price last year and attracted the growers to expand acreage. The mixed cropping creates more job opportunities and helps clear the weeds and grass," sad U Thaw Zin Tun, head of department.



Konjac plants are thriving in the farms in Palauk of Palaw Township in Taninthayi Region. **PHOTO : MYINT OO (MYEIK)**

Myanmar started to cultivate Konjac over 30 years ago in Kachin, Chin, Shan, Mon and Kayin states and Bago Region. Konjac cultivation commenced in Taninthayi Region in the 2020-2021 Financial Year. At present, konjac has become intercrop in rubber plantations in the region.

"Konjac cultivation begins in May and June and it is harvested in November and December. Cultivation cost is estimated at K5 million per acre and gross income is about K8 to 10 million per acre. The price of fresh elephant yam stands at K1,800-K2,000 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) in the domestic markets," he added.

The number of acres increased from 371 to 414 acres in Taninthayi Region. Majority of the growers from Yebyu, Dawei, Thayetchaung, Palaw, Myeik, Kyunsu, Taninthayi and Bokpyin townships carry out mixed cropping with Konjac.

"Large capital has to put in Konjac cultivation yet the profit is pretty high. The growers are suggested to expand acreage. If a large quantity of raw materials is supplied, it will contribute to more value-adding business," said U Tut Ni, a grower from Ward 2 in Palauk Town.

The elephant yams are rich in essential minerals. It is a rich source of dietary fiber, protein, and vitamins that brings many health and nutritional benefits. It can be used in food, pharmaceutical and industrial sectors with value adding. There are 80 varieties of Konjac. The commercial farming of Konjac is commonly found in South America, Africa, and the mainland Southeast Asia, according to the department. Beyond local consumption, Myanmar ships dried konjac and konjac powder to China, Japan, Thailand, India, Bangladesh and Malaysia.—Myint Oo (Myeik) /GNLM

CBM stops rumour of reimplementation of FEC system

CENTRAL Bank of Myanmar (CBM) denied spreading rumour of reimplementation of Foreign Exchange Certificate which was earlier abolished, according to a notification released by the CBM on 22 July.

The Foreign Exchange Management Law was enacted in 2012 and amended in 2015 and 2021 respectively.

Provisions regarding functions and responsibilities of the CBM for forex management, foreign exchange activities, holding foreign currencies and opening forex accounts, the use of Kyat during international transactions, activities of the authorized money changers, purchase, sales and import/export of gold and jewellery, ordinary account and large account transactions are put in to this law.

Therefore, there is no provision related to the issue of FECs in the CBM's tasks enacted in this law.

This being so, reimplementation of the FEC system is just a groundless rumour. The CBM stated that there is no plan to implement this system again according to the Foreign Exchange Management Law.

Additionally, all the foreign currency earned by locals have to be exchanged for local currency at the Central Bank of Myanmar's reference rate of K1,850 by opening the accounts at the authorized dealers in the country within one working day, according to the CBM's notification (12/2022) released on 3 April.

The CBM further released a statement concerning companies or institutions that are exempt from this action.

Those companies exempted from this have to convert the foreign currencies into local currency at the authorized dealers.

Moreover, the CBM denied another baseless rumour of seizing foreign currencies of the foreign account holders (companies, institutions and individuals).—NN/GNLM



Photo shows the building of Central Bank of Myanmar.

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

OPINION

Choose quality and safe products for health and fitness

PEOPLE use foodstuffs and consumer products essential for their daily routine. In choosing the products they like people need to take care of low-quality products without too much emphasizing the cheap prices of goods.

The people totally relied on goods manufacturers. They chose the products but missed chances to check the quality of products. If they used low-quality and unauthentic goods, they would face loss and bad consequences in health conditions.

As such, it is essential for daily consumption of products such as foodstuffs, pharmaceuticals and medical equipment, cosmetics, and consumer goods. In this regard, the safety of goods, authentic products, quality items and potent ones are of great importance in the daily consumption of the people. Hence, the Department of Food and Drug Administration carries out supervision for enabling people to safely consume quality and safe products.

> Truly, healthy and fit people are the most important in building a modern nation. To be able to have health and fitness, the people need to have a wider scope of knowledge in choosing the quality and safe products for their daily consumption and to inform relevant departments about low quality and unsafe products for the interests of the entire people.

Manufacturers and businesspersons need to strictly abide by the prescribed laws, orders and directives. If not, the FDA takes action against those offenders under the law in cooperation with relevant departments.

Moreover, the FDA inspects the ingredients of products, authentic raw materials, number of dyes and chemicals, Aflatoxins and other toxics, raw materials and quality of edible oil in the goods. Producers need to label the recommendations of relevant departments on the products. Hence, consumers need to check the products and whether the labels are put on them.

The Department of Food and Drug Administration was established on 1 August 2013 under the Ministry of Health. It is formed with Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay branches in addition to 12 region and state offices, 33 district offices and sections at 13 border trade camps in order to perform inspections of products on a wider scale for giving a helping hand to the people so as to safely consume foodstuffs and personal goods on a daily basis.

Laboratories of the department are functioning the tests for contents of mercury and lead in the products at the laboratories, laboratory tests for active pharmaceutical ingredients in drugs, use of dyes in foodstuffs, quality of consumer products, and the content of saturated and unsaturated oils in the current market.

Truly, healthy and fit people are the most important in building a modern nation. To be able to have health and fitness, the people need to have a wider scope of knowledge in choosing the quality and safe products for their daily consumption and to inform relevant departments about low quality and unsafe products for the interests of the entire people.

ARTICLE
Weather Report

Monkeypox Timeline: From Beginnings In Africa To Global Spread



People line up to receive the monkeypox vaccine in New York City on Sunday. **PHOTO: AFP**

As monkeypox infections jump around the world, prompting a scramble for vaccines, AFP looks at how the disease has spread since first appearing in Africa in the 1970s.

The World Health Organization on Saturday declared the outbreak, which has affected nearly 16,000 people in 72 countries, to be a global health emergency — the highest alarm it can sound.

Monkeypox, so called because it was first discovered in a monkey, is related to the deadly smallpox virus, which was eradicated in 1980, but is far less severe.

The strain currently circulating outside Africa is the milder of two known versions.

1970: First case in humans

Human monkeypox is first identified in 1970 in Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of Congo) in a nine-year-old boy.

It becomes endemic in the tropical rainforests of central and west Africa, where 11 countries report cases.

The virus is transmitted through close contact with infected animals, mostly rodents, or humans.

2003: First outbreak outside Africa

In June 2003, the disease surfaces in the United States -- the first time it had been detected outside Africa.

The illness is believed to have spread after rodents, imported into the US from Ghana, infected prairie dogs.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports 87 cases but no fatalities.

2017: Epidemic in Nigeria

2017 brings a major outbreak in Nigeria, with more than 200 confirmed cases and a fatality rate of around three percent, according to the WHO.

Over the next five years, sporadic cases are reported around the world in travellers arriving from Nigeria, notably in Britain, Israel, Singapore and the United States.

May 2022: Surge outside Africa

In May 2022, a flurry of cases is detected in countries outside Africa, in people with no travel links to the region. Most of those affected are gay men.

Europe is the epicentre of the new outbreak.

By May 20, Britain has recorded 20 cases, mostly among gay men.

On the same date, the WHO counts 80 confirmed cases around the world, including in Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Spain and Sweden.

Late May: Vaccinations start

On May 23, the United States says it is preparing to administer smallpox vaccines, which are effective against monkeypox, to people who have been in close contact with monkeypox patients.

Three days later, the European Union says it is working on centralising purchases of vaccines, as it did for Covid-19.

June: More than 1,000 cases

In early June, WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus says that more than 1,000 confirmed cases of monkeypox have been reported to WHO from 29 countries where the virus is not usually present.

On June 21, Britain announces plans to offer vaccines to gay and bisexual men with multiple sexual partners.

WHO experts meet on June 23 to discuss the threat but decide that monkeypox does not constitute a global public health emergency.

July: 14,000 cases, 70 countries

On July 8, health authorities in France also launches pre-emptive jabs for people considered at risk, including gay men, trans people and sex workers.

On July 14, the US CDC reports more than 11,000 confirmed cases in some 60 countries where monkeypox is not usually found. Most of the cases are in Europe, the United States and Canada.

The number of infections in New York doubles in under a week to several hundred. People stand in line for vaccines, which are in short supply.

On July 20, Tedros announces that almost 14,000 confirmed cases have been reported to the WHO this year, from more than 70 countries, with five deaths, all in Africa.

He says six countries reported their first cases in the previous week, while some states have limited access to diagnostics and vaccines, making the outbreak harder to track and to stop.

The WHO calls a new expert meeting for July 21 to decide whether to declare a global health emergency.

On Saturday, Tedros announces the monkeypox outbreak to be a "public health emergency of international concern".

SOURCE: AFP

Use of anti-inflammatory drug in treating patients with severe COVID-19

According to a new study from UTHealth Houston and other institutions, an anti-inflammatory drug may have the ability to treat systemic inflammation and brain damage in patients with severe COVID-19 and greatly lower their risk of dying.

A group of researchers led by Louise D. McCullough, MD, PhD, professor and Roy M. and Phyllis Gough Huffington Distinguished Chair in the Department of Neurology at UTHealth Houston, conducted a multi-site, randomised, controlled trial. Aaron M. Gusdon, MD, assistant professor in the Vivian L. Smith Department of Neurosurgery with McGovern Medical School at UTHealth Houston; H. Alex Choi, MD, associate professor in the department as well The trial's findings were released in Science Translational Medicine today.

The standard of therapy

24 individuals with severe COVID-19 were included in the study and randomly assigned to receive either a single intravenous dosage of placebo or OP-101 at 2, 4, or 8 mg/kg. The standard of therapy, which included corticosteroids, was given to all patients.

According to Gusdon, the study's first author, "OP-101 is a novel nanotherapeutic drug that selectively targets active macrophages and microglia, the key immune cells in the brain. We were thrilled to provide this medication to these critically ill patients at Memorial Hermann Hospital because of its exceptional safety profile.

The SARS-CoV-2-induced hyper inflammation is a primary contributor to COVID-19 disease severity. Neurofilament light chain and glial fibrillary acidic protein, which are indicators of neurological injury, were found to be reduced by OP-101 more effectively than by a placebo.

Mechanical breathing

Furthermore, the risk for the composite endpoint of death or mechanical breathing at 30 or 60 days after treatment was 18% for patients in the combined OP-101 treatment arms compared to 71% for individuals receiving the placebo. 3 of the 7 patients who received a placebo and 14 of the 17 patients who received OP-101 survived 60 days after treatment.

According to the data, OP-101 was well tolerated in the critically sick patient population and may be a successful therapy option for COVID-19 patients who are hospitalised.

Despite the fact that this was a small-dose escalation experiment, Gusdon noted that there was obviously a significant signal in favour of benefit at both the acute and chronic time points. "It is incredibly intriguing to consider the idea that this therapy may also help patients with other conditions that trigger systemic inflammatory responses, including different types of brain injury."

A nanotherapeutic substance called OP-101 has been tested in a number of animal models of inflammatory disease and has demonstrated superior anti-inflammatory and anti-oxidant effects.



According to Gusdon, the study's first author, "OP-101 is a novel nanotherapeutic drug that selectively targets active macrophages and microglia, the key immune cells in the brain. **PHOTO : RONI LEHTI /AFP**

More than 300 million individuals have been infected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and more than 5 million have died as a result.

The study's senior author is Sujatha Kannan, MD, professor in the Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine at Baltimore, Maryland's Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. The medical school's Nauder Faraday, MD, and Rangaramanujam M. Kannan, PhD, as well as the Bloomberg School of Public Health's Derek K. Ng, PhD, were the other Johns Hopkins University co-authors.

SOURCE: ANI

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 24 July 2022)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is weak to moderate over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 25 July 2022: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Magway Region, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Bago, and Ayeyawady regions and Kayin State and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Upper Sagaing, Magway, and Taninthayi regions and Kachin and Mon states. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (5 - 7) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Weak monsoon.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25 July 2022: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25 July 2022: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%)

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25 July 2022: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

SCI/HEALTH
WORLD

China launches second of three space station modules

CHINA on Sunday launched the second of three modules needed to complete its new space station, state media reported, the latest step in Beijing's ambitious space programme.

The uncrewed craft, named Wentian, was propelled by a Long March 5B rocket at 2:22 pm (0622 GMT) from the Wenchang launch centre on China's tropical island of Hainan.

A quarter of an hour later, an official from the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) confirmed the "success" of the launch.

Hundreds of people gathered on nearby beaches to take photos of the launcher rising through the air in a plume of white smoke.

After around eight minutes of flight, "the Wentian lab module successfully separated from the rocket and entered its intended orbit, making the launch a complete success," the CMSA said.



Beijing launched the central module of its space station Tiangong — which means 'heavenly palace' — in April 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

Beijing launched the central module of its space station Tiangong — which means "heavenly palace" — in April 2021.

Almost 18 metres (60 feet) long and weighing 22 tons (48,500 pounds), the new module has three sleeping areas and space for scientific experiments.

It will dock with the existing module in space, a challenging operation that experts said will require several high-precision manipulations and the use of a robotic arm.

"This is the first time China has docked such large vehicles together, which is a delicate operation," said Jonathan McDowell, an astronomer at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics.

He said until the next module arrives, the space station will have a "rather unusual L-shape" which will take a lot of power to keep stable.

"These are all technical challenges that the USSR pioneered with the Mir station in the late 1980s, but it's new to China," he told AFP.— AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Portugal starts vaccination against Monkeypox

PORTUGAL started the vaccination for those who had contact with the confirmed cases of the Monkeypox virus on Thursday, said the Portuguese Directorate-General of Health (DGS).

The Portuguese health authority had confirmed a total of 588 cases of monkeypox in the country as of Thursday since the first case reported on 3 May, with 73 detected last week.

Eligible contacts in different regions of Portugal continue to be identified and given vaccination, the DGS said.

The most common symptoms of the disease are fever, severe headache, muscle pain, back pain, tiredness, and enlarged lymph nodes with the progressive appearance of rashes that affect the skin and mucous membranes.— Xinhua

Canada confirms 681 cases of monkeypox

THE Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) on Friday updated the number of confirmed cases of monkeypox in the country to 681.

The cases included 331 from Quebec, 288 from Ontario, 48 from British Columbia, 12 from Alberta and two from Saskatchewan.

The agency said it is working closely with provincial and territorial public health partners to ensure coordination of the national strategic response, and that provinces and territories determine their immunization programs based on their unique circumstances.

According to the PHAC, as of 18 July, Quebec, the province most impacted by the monkeypox outbreak in the country, has administered 12,553 doses of vaccine to high-risk individuals. The majority of Quebec regions have opened vaccination to the population at risk.

Monkeypox is a viral disease that can spread from person to person through close contact including sexual contact, with an infected person's skin, bodily fluids, mucosal surfaces, and contaminated objects, such as sex toys, or shared personal items, such as clothing, linens, bedding, towels, toothbrushes, and utensils, according to the PHAC.— Xinhua

California wildfire rages as US bakes in record-setting heat wave

A California wildfire ripped through thousands of acres Saturday after being sparked a day earlier, as millions of Americans sweltered through scorching heat with already record-setting temperatures due to climb.

The heat wave encompassing multiple regions has increased the risk of blazes, such as the major Oak Fire, which broke out Friday in California near Yosemite National Park, where giant sequoias have already been threatened by flames in recent days.

The fire — described as "explosive" by officials — grew from about 600 acres to around 11,900 acres (4,800 hectares) within 24 hours. Concentrated in Mariposa County, it has already destroyed ten properties and damaged five others, with thousands more threatened.

More than 6,000 people had been evacuated, said Hector Vasquez, a California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection official, as the fire remained uncontained as of Saturday evening.

The department said the fire's activity was "extreme."

California Governor Gavin Newsom on Saturday declared a "state of emergency" in Mariposa County, citing "conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property."— AFP

At least 22 killed in south Iran floods: state media



Iran has in recent weeks seen protests against the drying up of rivers, particularly in central and northwestern areas. **PHOTO: TASNIM NEWS/AFP**

FLOODING in southern Iran has killed at least 22 people and left one person missing following heavy rainfall in the largely arid country, a local official said Saturday.

Iran has endured repeated droughts over the past decade, but also regular floods, a phenomenon made worse when torrential rain falls on sun-baked earth.

Videos posted on local and social media showed vehicles being carried away by the rising waters of the Roodball river in the southern province of Fars. One video showed adults pulling a child from a car as it began to shift downstream. "The number of people killed has risen to 22 after another body was found," due to floods that affected several towns in and around Estahban county, Javad Moradian, who heads a local rescue unit, told Mehr news agency.— AFP

PANDEMIC WORLD

Study recognises risks for long COVID in children

A study conducted in eight countries and published in JAMA Network Open found that nearly 6% of kids who had COVID-19 when they went to the Emergency Department (ED) later on exhibited symptoms of extended COVID. Long COVID was linked to a first-time hospitalisation lasting 48 hours or more, four or more symptoms present at the first ED visit, and age 14 or older. According to Principal Investigator Stephen Freedman, MDCM, MSc, of the Cumming School of Medicine at the University of Calgary and Alberta Health Services, "we discovered that in some children, sickness with COVID-19 is associated with reporting persisting symptoms after 3 months."

Our findings imply the necessity for suitable counselling and follow-up, particularly for kids who are at high risk for lengthy COVID. 1,884 children with COVID-19 who had a 90-day follow-up were included in the study. Nearly 10% of children in hospitals and 5% of kids who were discharged from the ER had long COVID.

According to co-principal investigator Nathan Kuppermann, MD, MPH, of the University of California, Davis School of Medicine in Sacramento, "Reported rates of extended COVID in adults are significantly greater than what we found in children."— ANI



Our findings imply the necessity for suitable counselling and follow-up, particularly for kids who are at high risk for lengthy COVID. **PHOTO: AFP**

WHO updates COVID-19 strategy in bid to vaccinate all health workers, those most at risk



The plan prioritizes vaccinating 100 per cent of healthcare workers and vulnerable groups, including older persons and those with underlying conditions, in line with efforts to vaccinate 70 per cent of the global population. **PHOTO: KYODO**

ALTHOUGH the COVID-19 vaccination rollout is the biggest and fastest in history, many people most at risk are still not protected against the disease, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Friday, announcing an updated inoculation strategy.

The plan prioritizes vaccinating 100 per cent of healthcare workers and vulnerable groups, including older persons and those with underlying conditions, in line with efforts to vaccinate 70 per cent of the global population.

More than 12 billion COVID-19 vaccine doses have been administered worldwide to date, resulting in countries reaching 60 per cent of their populations on average.

Yet only 28 per cent of older people and 37 per cent of healthcare workers in low-income countries, have received their primary course of vaccines, and most have not had booster doses.

Wide-ranging benefits

"Even where 70% vaccination coverage is achieved, if significant numbers of health workers, older people and other at-risk groups remain unvaccinated, deaths will continue, health systems will remain under pressure and the global recovery will be at risk," said Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the WHO Director-General.

"Vaccinating all those most at risk is the single best way to save lives, protect health systems and keep societies and economies open."

The updated strategy focuses on the need to measure progress in vaccinating these priority groups, and developing targeted approaches to reach them, which also includes gaining greater access to more displaced people through humanitarian response.

Invest and upgrade

Accelerating development of improved vaccines, and ensuring equitable access to substantially reduce virus transmission, is a top priority.

While current vaccines were designed to prevent serious illness and death, and have saved millions of lives, they have not substantially reduced transmission, WHO said.— AFP

Japan's daily coronavirus cases surpass 200,000 for 1st time

JAPAN'S daily COVID-19 cases topped 200,000 for the first time, according to a tally of new cases reported Saturday, marking the fourth straight day of a record count during the seventh wave of coronavirus infections.

Tokyo logged 32,698 new cases, exceeding the 30,000 mark for a third consecutive day and up more than 13,000 from the previous Saturday.

The government said Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno tested positive for the virus the same day. But Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and other senior members of the prime minister's office are not among his close contacts.

The national daily tally came to 200,975 patients, roughly double the peak of the sixth wave, which hit around 104,000 on 3 February . The latest surge is driven by the highly transmissible Omicron subvariant known as BA.5.



People wearing face masks for protection against the coronavirus walk down the Osu shopping street in the central Japan city of Nagoya on 23 July 2022. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Record daily cases were reported in 17 of the country's 47 prefectures, including Kanagawa, Aichi, Osaka, Fukuoka and Okinawa.— Kyodo

Study: Protective T cells remain 20 months after COVID-19

SHORTLY after infection, patients infected with SARS-CoV-2 develop protective immune responses mediated by virus-specific T cells and antibodies. However, there is concern that immunity does not last, which could result in severe COVID-19 infection upon re-infection. Anna Martner and co-authors from the University of Gothenburg report two major findings in the July 12 issue of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS). First, several virus-specific T cell variants were detected in blood shortly after COVID-19 but then vanished after 10-12 weeks. However, a subset of highly specialised T cells, which are designed to help eliminate infected cells, remained active in the blood of all previously SARS-CoV-2-infected patients. Even after a long period of observation, these T cells did not disappear or wane.

The findings could explain why patients who have been re-infected with SARS-CoV-2 have a lower risk of severe disease and death. Researchers from the University of Gothenburg and Sahlgrenska University Hospital collected 81 blood samples from hospital staff members who had mild COVID-19 in the first year of the pandemic, as well as uninfected controls. T cell reactivity to an inner part of SARS-CoV-2 (the virus nucleocapsid) was studied, capturing T cell responses that only occur after a natural infection. — ANI

ECONOMY
WORLD

China's STAR market injects impetus into sci-tech innovation

CHINA'S Nasdaq-style sci-tech innovation board, known as the STAR market, has continued to advance the innovative transformation of the Chinese economy.

Friday marks the board's third anniversary. During the past three years, 439 firms have been listed on the STAR market, raising more than 640 billion yuan (about 95 billion US dollars) via initial public offerings, data from the Shanghai Stock Exchange (SSE) showed.

As of Thursday, the market's total value is over 5.5 trillion yuan, with high-tech enterprises accounting for 90 per cent of the total listed companies.

Sci-tech firms listed on the board have posted stellar performance thanks to the impetus provided by technology.



File photo taken on 27 March 2020 shows the Nanshan District where many high-tech companies are located in Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong Province. **PHOTO: XINHUA/LIANG XU**

In the first quarter of this year, companies on the STAR market saw their net profit attributable to shareholders of the parent company soar 62 per cent year on year.

As China has continued to deepen its high-level opening-up of the capital market, the board has become increasingly attractive to foreign investment. So far this year, foreign institutional transactions on the market accounted for 9 per cent of the total, up 7 percentage points from 2020. The STAR market was launched on the SSE on 22 July 2019, kicking off a trailblazing leg of the country's innovation drive and capital market reform.

The board was designed to support companies in the high-tech and strategic emerging sectors, in order to facilitate the innovative transformation of the Chinese economy and explore ways to make institutional improvements in the capital market.—Xinhua

Snap plunges 35% after results as US stocks open mixed

SNAP shares sank more than 30 per cent early Friday following disappointing results as US stocks were mixed in the final session of a positive trading week.

About 30 minutes into trading, Snapchat's parent company was down 35.4 per cent as it pointed to a punishing confluence of increased competition, slowing growth of its revenue, "upended" advertising industry standards and macroeconomic woes in reporting that its quarterly loss nearly tripled to US$422 million.

Stocks have risen the last three sessions, generating hopes that the market may have pivoted after a bruising first half of 2022.

But analysts caution there are still several key earnings reports to come, as well as next week's Federal Reserve meeting and influential economic releases such as a reading of second-quarter US growth.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 0.1 per cent at 32,063.01.—AFP

Cambodia attracts 1.29 bln USD investment from China in H1 of 2022

CAMBODIA attracted fixed-asset investment of 1.29 billion US dollars from China in the first half of 2022, according to a report from the Council for the Development of Cambodia on Saturday.

China remained the top foreign investor in the Southeast Asian country, accounting for 43 per cent of the total investment of 2.99 billion dollars the kingdom approved during the January-June period this year, the report said.

Other foreign investments in the kingdom for the first half of this year were from Thailand, Samoa, British Virgin Islands, South Korea, Singapore, Cayman Islands, Malaysia, Japan and Australia, it added.

Investment projects had been focused on agriculture and agro-industry sectors, manufacturing, tourism, and infrastructure.



Cambodia attracted fixed-asset investment of 1.29 billion US dollars from China in the first half of 2022, according to a report from the Council for the Development of Cambodia on Saturday. **PHOTO: AFP**

Heng Sokkung, secretary of state and spokesman for the Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology and Innovation, said excellent ties, the Cambodia-China Free Trade Agreement (CCFTA) and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) trade deal are the main factors encouraging more Chinese investors to Cambodia.

Both the CCFTA and the 15-member RCEP trade deal entered into force on 1 January 2022.

"I believe that these free trade agreements, together with Cambodia's favorable investment law, peace and political stability, have provided a great opportunity for foreign investors, particularly Chinese ones, to invest in Cambodia," he told Xinhua.— AFP

Egypt's small farms play big role but struggle to survive



Egyptian smallholders wield little negotiating power in the marketplace making it difficult for them to avoid sliding into debt. **PHOTO: AFP**

EGYPTIAN smallholders grow nearly half of the country's crops, a lifeline role increasingly important after grain imports were stalled by war in Ukraine — but they are struggling to survive.

Despite their crucial role providing food for the North African nation's 103 million people, smallholders are cash-strapped and indebted, frequently selling their harvests at a loss.

"The farmer is dead, trampled," farmer Zakaria Aboueldahab told AFP, brewing tea on his rented plot of wheat and onions in Qalyubia, 30 kilometres (18 miles) north of Cairo.

"I'm trying to sell my onion harvest but I can't find a market," he said, the remnants of his crop scattered across the soil. "I just want to break even. I don't know how I'm going to pay rent".

His onions would sell in Egypt: but financing, marketing and infrastructure hurdles create massive gaps between supply and demand.

According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), small farms are the "primary producers" of food for domestic consumption in Egypt.

Farmers cultivating less than three feddans (1.2 hectares, three acres) — an area the size of a football pitch — till 35 per cent of arable land.

Yet they produce some 47 per cent of Egypt's field crops, the FAO calculates.—AFP

Garuda Indonesia to increase flight frequency after averting bankruptcy

JUST one month after being declared free from bankruptcy, Indonesian flag carrier Garuda Indonesia announced Friday that it had added three Boeing 737-800 NG aircraft to its operation and would increase its flight frequency by 32 per cent in August.

"This strategy aims to optimize the company's performance. We need to continue boosting operational capacity and restructure the company," Garuda Indonesia's President Director Irfan Setiaputra said in a statement.

He said flight frequency would be increased for routes from Jakarta to Batam, Balikpapan, Denpasar, Medan, Makassar, Surabaya, and Singapore.

Garuda recorded 650 weekly flights in June, and has targeted to record at least 850 weekly flights throughout August.

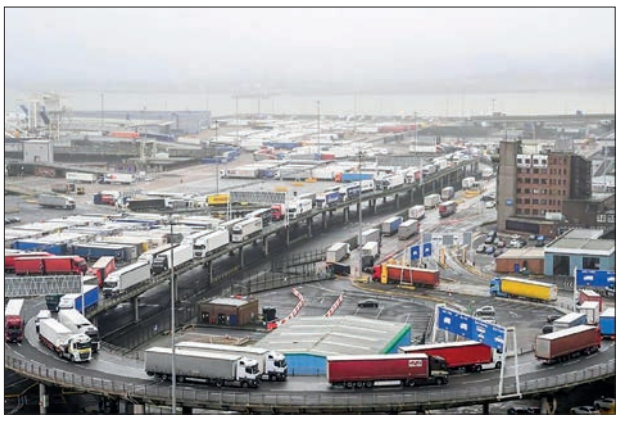
"We hope that Garuda Indonesia can contribute to the recovery process of Indonesian tourism and bring positive impacts to the national economy," Setiaputra said.

Garuda Indonesia has successfully averted bankruptcy with its proposal to restructure 142 trillion rupiahs (9 billion US dollars) of its liabilities approved by creditors and lessors.— Xinhua



Aircraft technicians check the Rolls Royce engine of Garuda Indonesia's Airbus A330-300 aircraft at the company hangar in Jakarta airport. **PHOTO: ROMEO GACAD/AFP/ FILE**

Brexit blamed as UK faces Channel port logjam



Bottlenecks of lorries at Dover have been seen since then but this summer is the first with unrestricted travel for the public since the lifting of all COVID restrictions. **PHOTO: AFP**

UNIONS, port officials and the French authorities blamed Brexit on Saturday as thousands of holidaymakers faced long delays trying to reach Europe via the English Channel port of Dover.

UK Foreign Secretary Liz Truss laid the blame squarely on Paris, insisting: "The French authorities have not put enough people on the border."

But officials on the other side of the Channel rejected claims that the gridlock was caused by under-staffing. Border checks and extra paperwork for freight traffic were reintroduced when Britain left the European Union last year, ending free movement for people and goods in the bloc. Bottlenecks of lorries at Dover have been seen since then but this summer is the first with unrestricted travel for the public since the lifting of all Covid restrictions. French lawmaker Pierre-Henri Dumont, whose constituency includes the French Channel port of Calais, called the travel chaos "an aftermath of Brexit".

"We have to run more checks than before," he told BBC television, predicting it would happen again.

Port of Dover chief executive Doug Bannister initially blamed a lack of French border agency staff for the logjam which saw some holidaymakers wait six hours or longer to catch their ferries.— AFP

Japan firm seeks halal approval for non-alcohol udon soup stock

FROM mirin to soy sauce, alcohol is an integral part of Japanese stocks, sauces and other products used to prepare dishes such as soba noodles or nikujaga meat and potato stew.

But that alcoholic component excludes many beyond Japan's shores from trying its cuisine, not least the world's estimated nearly 2 billion Muslims.

Now, in a bid to make local specialty Sanuki udon available to more people, Kamada Soy Sauce Inc. in the country's western prefecture of Kagawa is preparing to apply for halal approval for a non-alcohol version of the noodle dish's stock.

The idea came from 28-year-old Arum Tiyas Suminar, an Indonesian woman who did her postgraduate studies at Kagawa University and is now employed at the soy sauce producer in Sakaide.

During her student days, Arum tried to sample a bowl of Sanuki udon at a local restaurant. But it was only when it arrived in front of her that she thought to ask if its soup stock had soy sauce or mirin, sweet cooking rice wine. When the server replied in the affirmative, she had to abandon the meal.

With a purified production line among halal certification's necessary conditions, the company, founded in 1789, uses specified cleaning products to rinse the manufacturing equipment with water six times. — Kyodo

China's mobile phone shipments rise 9.2 pct in June

CHINA'S mobile phone shipments rose 9.2 per cent year on year to 28.02 million units in June, data from the China Academy of Information and Communications Technology showed.

In the first six months, total shipments came in at 136 million units, said the academy, a research institute under the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology.

Domestic shipments of 5G mobile phones hit about 23.03 million units last month, jumping 16.3 per cent from a year earlier and accounting for 82.2 per cent of the total shipments.

Domestic brands continued to dominate China's mobile phone market in June, with shipments reaching 24.51 million units, accounting for 87.5 per cent of last month's total.

A total of 32 new phone models were rolled out by domestic brands in June, an increase of 14.3 per cent, the data showed.— Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA RAJIN VOY.NO. (KRJN0258N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KOTA RAJIN VOY.NO. (KRJN0258N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-7-2022** 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

Agent For:

M/S ADVACNE CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V GREEN ACE VOY.NO. (228W/229E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V GREEN ACE VOY.NO. (228W/229E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-7-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Sri Lanka president's office to reopen after crackdown

SRI Lanka's besieged presidential office will reopen on Monday, police said, days after anti-government demonstrators were flushed out in a military crackdown that triggered international condemnation.

Widespread public anger over the island's unprecedented economic crisis saw protesters storm and occupy the colonial-era building earlier this month.

Soldiers were forced to rescue then-president Gotabaya Rajapaksa from his nearby residence on the same day, with the leader fleeing to Singapore and resigning days later.

Troops armed with batons and automatic weapons cleared the 92-year-old presidential secretariat in a pre-dawn raid Friday on the orders of Rajapaksa's successor, Ranil Wickremesinghe.



Military personnel in ceremonial uniform lower the Sri Lanka national flag at Galle Face Green in Colombo. **PHOTO: AFP**

At least 48 people were wounded and nine arrested in the operation, during which security forces tore down tents set up by protesters outside the complex since April.

"The office is ready for reopening from Monday," said a police official Sunday, who declined to be named as he was not authorised to speak to the media.

He told AFP that forensics experts had visited the office to gather evidence of damage by protesters.

"The siege of the secretariat, which lasted since May 9, has now been lifted."

Western governments, the United Nations and human rights groups have condemned Wickremesinghe for using violence against unarmed protesters who had announced their intention to vacate the site later on Friday.— AFP

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Here are the latest developments in the war in Ukraine: Disinformation shifting views on Ukrainian refugees

WHEN Dominika Sokur speaks to her children in the playground, she overhears hostile reactions that she believes are being fuelled by disinformation.

"When we come to the playground, people go: 'Ah, the Ukrainians have come, let's get out of here'," said Sokur, 41, a Czech married to a Ukrainian who lives in the town of Holubice north of Prague.

"I have overheard them complaining that we get to ride buses and visit the zoo for free."

The attitude illustrates rising resentment against Ukrainian refugees in parts of Europe that experts link to false social media posts about Ukrainian refugees and the benefits they receive.

"Even my 65-year-old dad, who is not pro-Russian and supports Ukraine, is asking me what's all this talk about Ukrainian Nazis. The disinformation is simply everywhere," Sokur said. Since Russia invaded Ukraine in February, European nations have taken in almost six million refugees, according to the UN refugee agency. — AFP

United States calls on Russia to 'swiftly' implement Ukraine grain deal

THE UNITED States on Friday called on Russia to allow the export of Ukrainian grain stuck at Black sea ports. Washington expressed hope that the deal would be able to monitor compliance. The deal was negotiated by Türkiye and the United Nations.

"We fully expect the implementation of today's arrangement to commence swiftly to prevent the world's most vulnerable from sliding deeper into insecurity and malnutrition," White House spokesman John Kirby as quoted by AFP.

enior US diplomat Victoria Nuland also lauded the agreement. Nuland said that the deal was very well-structured in terms of monitoring and in terms of channels that the grain ought to be able to get out of. She further added that Russia was obliged to act after the blockade due to its invasion which led to an increase in food prices, especially in African countries.—AFP

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Russia attacks Ukraine's Odesa port day after grain deal

RUSSIAN missiles struck Ukraine's Black Sea port of Odesa on Saturday, the Ukrainian military said, a day after the two countries agreed on a deal to allow the resumption of grain shipments blocked by the conflict.

Ukraine's Foreign Ministry said the strikes on the key grain-exporting port were a "spit in the face" of Türkiye and the United Nations, which mediated the deal that could ease a food crisis triggered by soaring commodity prices. Two missiles hit the port's infrastructure, the Ukrainian military said. No grain storage facilities were hit in Odesa, the Associated Press reported, citing Southern Command spokeswoman Nataliya Humenyuk. But Turkey's defense minister said he had spoken with Ukrainian authorities and one missile had struck a grain silo and another landed nearby but neither affected loading at Odesa's docks, according to the report.— Kyodo



Russian missiles destroyed Ukrainian "military infrastructure" in a strike on Ukraine's Black Sea port of Odesa, crucial for grain exports, Russia's foreign ministry spokeswoman said Sunday. **PHOTO: 24 KANAL/AFP**

North Korea accuses US of biological warfare in Ukraine

NORTH Korea accused the United States on Sunday of manufacturing biological weapons in Ukraine, echoing a Russian claim dismissed by the United Nations in March.



Ukrainian soldiers rest at their position near Lyman, eastern Ukraine, on Thursday, amid Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Even before the arrival of the more sophisticated, often longer-range cannons now being fed into the Ukrainian war effort, artillery was key. **PHOTO: AFP**

Moscow ally Pyongyang in February said US policy was the "root cause of the Ukraine crisis," and this month formally recognised two self-proclaimed pro-Russian separatist regions in eastern Ukraine, prompting Kyiv to cut diplomatic ties with North Korea. Washington "set up many biological labs in tens of countries and regions, including Ukraine, in disregard of the international treaties," the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said Sunday, citing what it said had been "detected" by Russia.— AFP

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Sri Lankan president orders speedy fuel distribution with focus on school, public transport

SRI Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe on Saturday instructed officials to accelerate the fuel distribution process and focus on providing fuel for school and public transport.

He ordered officials to provide fuel to vehicles that transport school children from all state-run fuel depots.

The instruction was given at a meeting to address the fuel crisis in the country, as schools will be reopened after several weeks of closure due to fuel shortages.

Fishermen, farmers and those engaged in tourism also need to be provided adequate quantities of fuel, the president said.

Wickremesinghe said the fuel black market in the country has to be tackled immediately, instructing the police to carry out investigations.

Sri Lanka has been facing crippling fuel shortages since earlier this year due to foreign exchange shortages.— Xinhua

Thai PM Prayut wins no-confidence vote in parliament



This handout photo released and taken by the Royal Thai Government on 26 June 2020, Thailand's Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha attends from Bangkok the opening ceremony of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit in Hanoi, held online due to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

THAI Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha thwarted an attempt by the opposition to unseat his government after surviving a no-confidence vote in the parliament on Saturday.

Prayut won the vote in the House of Representatives after receiving 256 votes in favor and 206 against with nine abstentions from the members of the parliament, according to live broadcast of the parliamentary session.

The vote followed four days of censure debate broadcast live this week and was the latest attempt by the oppositions to unseat Prayut's government.

Ten cabinet ministers, who were targeted alongside the prime minister by the opposition in the no-confidence motion, also survived the vote.— Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Two Palestinians killed in Israeli West Bank raid: ministry

TWO Palestinians were killed overnight in the occupied West Bank city of Nablus, the Palestinian health ministry said Sunday, in what the Israeli army said was a shootout with gunmen.

The army said it carried out operations and used live fire in several locations, including in Nablus, adding it arrested four "individuals suspected of involvement in terrorist activities."

The Israeli military said "hits" were identified against multiple "terrorists"and said there were no reported wounded on its own side.

Israel's security forces have launched near-daily operations in the West Bank following a spate of attacks in Israel in recent months. The Jewish state has occupied the West Bank since 1967.

The Palestinian health ministry said Muhamad Azizi, 25, was killed by a bullet to the chest while Abdul Rahman Jamal Suleiman Sobh, 28, was shot in the head overnight.

Six others were wounded, including two in serious condition, it said. "This Israeli crime will not defeat our people and will not break their will," said Nabil Abu Rudeina, a spokesman for Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas. – AFP

G20 women's forum calls for support for gender equality, women's economic empowerment

DELEGATES to the Women 20 (W20) Summit, convened ahead of the Group of 20 (G20) Leaders' Summit in Indonesia's Bali in November, have called for more support from G20 members to promote gender and women's economic empowerment.

The three-day meeting concluded on Thursday in the Indonesian province of North Sumatra with eight communiques delivered to the Indonesian government, which is responsible for leading the policy direction of the club of the world's 20 largest economies.

Indonesia is currently the host country of the G20, consisting of 19 countries and the European Union and the W20 was aimed at ensuring that considerations on gender are mainstreamed into G20 discussions and translated into the G20 leaders' declaration as policies promoting gender equality and women's economic empowerment. – Xinhua

Unification Church ties to lawmakers emerges as major political issue

THE Unification Church's links to Japanese lawmakers has emerged as a major political issue ahead of an extraordinary parliamentary session in the fall, following the assassination of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, with opposition parties moving to probe such ties including within their own ranks.

Abe's assailant has said he held a grudge against the religious group because large donations his mother had made to it ruined his family, and he thought Abe was linked to the group, according to investigative sources.

The veteran lawmaker had sent a video message to a related group's gathering held in September, and the suspect said he watched it on the internet, the sources said.

The assassination of Japan's longest-serving prime minister has shed a fresh light on the church's involvement in politics, decades after the group founded by a staunch anti-communist, widely known for its mass weddings, drew scrutiny over its so-called spiritual sales, in which people were talked into buying jars and other items for exorbitant prices.

Sun Myung Moon, the founder of the Unification Church, also founded the International Federation for Victory over Communism, a political group, in Japan in 1968.

Many Liberal Democratic Party lawmakers are said to have connections with the church. It remains to be seen, however, what, if anything, the ruling party intends to do about the matter.

Some LDP lawmakers have begun disclosing their connections with the church, known formally as the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification.— Kyodo



File photo taken in November 2006 shows then Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (R) waving to the crowds on the streets of Shibuya in Tokyo, during his first term as premier. Abe was accompanied by his close aide Yoshiyuki Inoue (L). **PHOTO: KYODO**

SPORT

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Thai PM Prayut wins no-confidence vote in parliament

PAGE-15



Raphinha strikes again as Barcelona beat Real Madrid 1-0



Barcelona's Raphinha gestures after scoring a goal in a friendly match against Real Madrid at Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas, Nevada. **PHOTO: AFP**

RAPHINHA made it two goals in two matches as Barcelona defeated Real Madrid 1-0 on Saturday in their Las Vegas Clasico. Raphinha, signed from Premier League Leeds United earlier this month for around $60 million, followed up his debut in a 6-0 thrashing of Inter Miami with the lone goal of the high-profile clash at Allegiant Stadium, the $1.97 billion, 65,000-seat home of the NFL's Las Vegas Raiders. The Brazilian was perfectly placed to intercept an ill-advised pass from Real's Eder Militao along the top of the area. After one touch to settle he lashed a left-footed shot over Thibaut Courtois into the top right corner of the net to put Barcelona up 1-0 in the 27th minute. The fourth edition of the Clasico to be played outside of Spain — the second ever held in the United States — featured all the intensity of the long rivalry.

Real Madrid, playing their first pre-season friendly, nearly opened the scoring in the 18th minute but Federico Valverde was denied by the post in the 18th minute, seizing the ball after a poor clearance by Jordi Alba and blasting a volley from 25 yards out that beat Marc-Andre Ter Stegen only for the upright to intervene.—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.

Ten Hag stamps mark on new-look United

NEW Manchester United coach Erik ten Hag kicked off his reign with three wins and a draw on their pre-season tour of Asia and Australia.

Despite missing wantaway Cristiano Ronaldo they comfortably beat Liverpool, Melbourne Victory and Crystal Palace, and drew with Aston Villa, as they count down to the new Premier League season in two weeks. AFP Sport looks at how United are shaping up under the former Ajax boss. Ronaldo wants out of the club. He failed to report for pre-season training at the club's Carrington training complex and missed their tour due to a "family issue".

But Ten Hag said he had spoken to the unsettled superstar striker and insisted he was "not for sale".—AFP

Yangon United seal 5-0 victory over Mahar United



Yangon United striker (greenish blue) pass over the Mahar United defender during their Week-5 match of the Myanmar National League at Thuwunna YTC in Yangon on 24 July 2022. **PHOTO:MNA**

YANGON United trounced Mahar United 5-0 in the Week-5 match of the Myanmar National League at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre in Yangon yesterday.

Goals scored by Yangon star players Zaw Win Thein, and Lamin Htwe led to a sweet victory. Yangon United dominated the match from the beginning.

In 33rd minutes, Yangon saw the first goal when Htet Phyo Wai paved the way for Zaw Win Thein to drive to the net. In 9th minutes later, Lamin Htwe added another goal for Yangon to lead with two goals at the first half end.

Mahar United tried to equalize in the second half and in 61st minutes, they got a free kick, but Goal Keeper San Sett Naing denied it. Lamin Htwe made it 3-0 for Yangon in 69th minutes when Yan Naing Oo set the scene for him. The Yangon star extended his scoring in 89th minutes with an assist from Yan Paing Soe. In extra times, the referee awarded a penalty to Yangon when the opponent made an interception badly to Htet Phyo Wai in the penalty area.

Lamin Htwe finished it for his fourth goal, and at the final whistle, Yangon celebrated the 5-0 victory over Mahar United.

Yangon United Head Coach U Min Tun Lin said, "On behalf of the players, I am thrilled to win this game as we have some stress that we lost in the previous match".

Yangon will next face ISPE on 31 July.—GNLM