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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.

State Peace Talks Team discusses with DKBA delegation on second-day meeting



The State Peace Talks Team leader and the DKBA delegation leader are pictured signing the agreements received during the three-day peace talks in Nay Pyi Taw on 21 June 2022.

THE State Peace Talks Team met representatives from the Democratic Karen Benevolent Army-DKBA at the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Centre's meeting room in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Member of the State Administration Council and Union Minister at the Office of

the Union Government (1) Chairman of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee Leader of the Peace Talks Team Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Member of the State Administration Council Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun, Secretary of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee Lt-Gen Min Naung,

DKBA Commander-in-Chief Saw Steel along with members Saw Sein Win and Saw Kyaw Than Htay attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the agreements contained in Part I, II and III of the Union Accord were discussed.

Lt-Gen Win Bo Shein, an NSPNC member, explained

the findings of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee on the remaining points in Table 2 for further discussion in Part III.

The two sides then talked about peace and development issues and signed the of agreements after three days of negotiations.

Afterwards, DKBA Com-

mander-in-Chief Saw Steel and State Peace Talks Team Leader Lt-Gen Yar Pyae made concluding remarks.

Books of the Diamond Jubilee of Union Day published by the Ministry of Information, Myanmar Encyclopaedia volume 1 and gifts were presented after their discussion. — MNA

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Announcement for armed resistance organizations' members including PDF who want to enter legal fold

LESSONS have already been learnt from the past that unity can only assure non-disintegration of the Union and perpetuation of sovereignty for the Republic of the Union of Myanmar where various ethnic peoples are living in. In the future, it must work for the unity and solidarity of ethnic brethren. Due to political adversaries and disagreements in ethnic affairs, internal armed conflicts occurred and it has hampered the development of the country.

Those who were persuaded by terrorist groups CRPH and NUG to commit acts of terrorism leading to the utter devastation of the country and launch armed resistance under various names of groups including PDF. Such doings can affect the stability of the State and ensue delay in ways to democracy.

As the strength of the country lies on its own, the entire people should cooperate in establishing a genuine and disciplined multiparty democratic system as per the five-point roadmap of the State Administration Council, "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 according to democratic standards", and in line with "one of the objectives on political affairs to build a Union based on democracy and federalism through a disciplined and genuine multiparty democratic system that is fair and just".

Therefore, it is here announced that the organizations including PDF are welcomed if they enter the legal fold for their normal civilian lives by surrendering their weapons following rules and regulations to participate in future work plans of the country.

*Information Team
State Administration Council*

Civil Servants Housing, Public Housing developed in Yangon Region (2)

By Kayan Soe Myint

Kanaung low-cost housing project

THE project is located near Dagon Seikkan Industrial zone II on Kanaung Minthagyi Road in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township, Eastern Yangon District, including 12 eight semi-detached buildings with four floors (372 apartments) and 20 six semi-detached buildings with four floors (480 apartments). Moreover, five-eight semi-detached buildings with five floors (200 apartments) are planned to be constructed in the 2022-2023 Financial Year. A single unit is 456 square feet wide. There is a Kanaung Market complex in the housing project.

Yoma low-cost housing project

Yoma low-cost housing is situated at Ward 168 near Kyisu Industrial Zone on Yoma Yeiktha Road in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township, Eastern Yangon District. The objective behind this project is to rent the housing units to unauthorized tenants (squatters). Those who do not own the house were allowed to rent the 120 apartments in six buildings with five floors.

Aung Myint Mo Public Housing

The housing is located at the intersection of No. 2 Highway and Hlawga Road near Ywathagyi in Dagon Myothit (South) Township. There is public transport access and other infrastructure

(water and electricity supply) and facilities such as car parking and shophouses. There are a total of 1,056 apartments in 44 buildings in the housing, with 24 six semi-detached buildings with four floors and 12 eight semi-detached buildings with four floors and eight-four semi-detached buildings with three floors.

Affordable Thilawa Housing Project

Thilawa Housing Project is located near Thanlyin Technological University and Thilawa Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Thanlyin Township, Southern Yangon District. Low-cost and medium-cost affordable housing projects are to be developed to contribute to Thilawa SEZ.

Under Phase I on 31 acres of land, the Thilawa Housing Project conducted on 1 April 2017 included 55 buildings and 1,708 apartments. Those completed units have been put up for sales.

As Phase II, the project to cover five buildings with five floors (eight semi-detached ones) having 200 apartments was started in February 2020. YBS service is available in the area and clinic and school facilities are also planned there.

Inwa Housing Project

Inwa Housing Project is aimed at the middle-income and low-income people to occupy the property. It is developed on the roadside of Ayawun Road in Da-



One of the Public Rental Housing projects in Yangon Region.

gon Myothit (South) Township, eastern Yangon District.

The project is implemented on 13.083 acres of land at Ward 66, including eight buildings with five floors and 160 apartments (900 square feet per unit), 14 buildings with five floors and 280 apartments (740 sq feet per unit), 22 buildings with four floors and 176 apartments (1,175 sq feet per unit), seven buildings with three floors and 84 apartments (1,000 sq feet per unit), one-two semi-detached building with three floors and six apartments (1,000 sq feet per unit), one apartments with four floors and four apartments (1,175 sq feet per unit) and three buildings with six-semi-detached buildings with three floors and 54 units (900 sq ft per unit).

Inwa Housing Project can provide accommodation for 3,000-4,000 people with a total of 764

apartments in 56 buildings. The apartments on the fifth floor is worth K16.5 million, while the unit on the ground floor is valued at K32.5 million. For 1,175 sq ft units, the unit on the fourth floor is priced at K28.5 million while the price of the one on the ground floor is K48 million. There are also 90 stalls and shophouses in the project.

Pale Mon Housing Project

Pale Mon Housing Project was developed on 7-13 acres of land near the Town Centre Area at Ward 65 in Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Eastern Yangon District. It is an affordable housing project. Civil staff, government personnel and company staff are prioritized to get access to this project.

Apartments can be purchased with 50 per cent instal-

ments and 50 per cent housing mortgage loans by CHID Bank. Pale Mon Housing Project has a total of 272 apartments. The capital of that project is estimated at K11.425 billion.

The housing compound has infrastructure and facilities such as a park, playground, religious building, car parking and two coffee shops. The housing is supplied by four artesian wells under the central water supply system with a capacity of 100,000 gallons per day.

In conclusion, Yangon, being a commercial city, is crowded with an urban population with thousands of civil servants and employees. As a result of this, the Department of Urban and Housing Development is fulfilling the housing needs of the civil servants and people.

■

14 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 21 June, total figure rises to 613,508

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 613,508 after 14 new cases were reported on 21 June 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 592,503 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll still stands at 19,434 without more casualties.—MNA

Union spirit is the resolve to build a Union through mutual amity between all the nationalities

UNION spirit is the foundation of the historic independence struggle, and it will also be the cornerstone of the future democratic country. In fact, the Union spirit is the resolve to build a Union through mutual amity between all the nationalities. As a peaceful and stable democratic State will be built only with the Union spirit, we must nurture a highly qualified new general possessing a strong Union spirit.

(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 fell on 12 February 2021)

MoD Union Minister leaves for Cambodia to attend 16th ASEAN Defence Ministers' meeting

MEMBER of the State Administration Council Union Minister for Defence General Mya Tun Oo left for Phnom Penh, Cambodia, the current ASEAN Chair, yesterday to attend the 16th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting and related meetings to be held on 22 June.

The Union minister was accompanied by Deputy Director-General of the Department of International Affairs U Zaw Zaw Soe and officials. Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein and senior military officers saw the delegation off at the Yangon International Airport. — MNA



MoD Union Minister General Mya Tun Oo is seen off at Yangon International Airport before departing for Cambodia.

MOH performs releasing of fingerlings and monsoon tree-growing ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw

A monsoon tree-growing and fingerlings-releasing ceremony of the Ministry of Health was held on 21 June at the National Herbal Park and the Mingala Lake in Zabuthiri Township of



Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory.

First, Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win and Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Dr Maung Maung Naing released fish hatchlings into the lake.

Afterwards, Deputy Minister Dr Aye Tun and Colonel Min Naung, member of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, the directors-general, the deputy directors-general and departmental staff released 10,000 golden sturgeon fingerlings and 10,000 Rohu fingerlings, totalling 20,000.

In addition, Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win, Dr Maung Maung Naing, Dr Aye Tun and the Nay Pyi Taw Council member planted Ceylon ironwood saplings, Myoporum

sandwicense saplings, Tharaphi saplings and Magnolia saplings in the National Herbal Park, respectively.

Then, herbal plants such as Ceylon ironwood saplings, Myoporum sandwicense saplings, Tharaphi saplings, Magnolia saplings, Sandalwood saplings, Bay leaf saplings, Cinnamon saplings, Asafoetida saplings, Terminalia bellirica saplings, Patee phyu saplings, Gardenia saplings and Calophyllum inophyllum saplings were grown by officials and departmental personnel.

Later, the Union minister and officials viewed the cultivation of the herbal plants, it is learnt. — MNA

UEC Chairman meets election sub-commissions staff in Rakhine State

CHAIRMAN of the Union Election Commission U Thein Soe met staff from the election sub-commissions in Rakhine State yesterday morning.

The meeting was attended by Rakhine State Chief Minister Dr Aung Kyaw Min, UEC members U Aung Saw Win and Daw Nu Mra Zan, Rakhine State Chief Justice Daw Wah Wah Tun, Rakhine State cabinet members, members of the state/district/township sub-commissions and officials.

At the meeting, UEC Chair U Thein Soe said implementation of the five-point roadmap of the State Administration Council, completion of the census, matters related to accurate voter registration, the situation of holding elections



UEC Chairman U Thein Soe holds talks with the staff of election sub-commissions in Rakhine State.

by a PR system, cooperation with the relevant ministries, state/region government bodies in compiling the voter list, party inspections under the law

which is a testament to the legitimacy of future elections, planning for the election without making errors, expansion of polling stations in Rakhine

State where necessary. As the State Administration Council is taking responsibility for holding the re-election, relevant departments were urged to co-

operate with the commission.

Then, U Thurein Htut, Rakhine State election officer, explained the appointment of staff of branch offices of the Election Sub-commission, lands for office buildings and the completion of the census required for voter registration.

Afterwards, the UEC chairman and party visited the land demanded by the Rakhine State government for the construction of the Election Sub-commission staff housing in Sittway. He also inspected the election commission branch office, Sittway District Election Sub-commission branch office and Sittway Township Election Sub-commission office and gave necessary instructions. — MNA

ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR), Southeast Asian National Human Rights Forum (SEANF) hold online meeting



A virtual meeting of the AICHR and SEANF is in progress.

THE ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and the Southeast Asia National Human Rights Forum (SEANF) held a virtual meeting today.

The ceremony was attended by representatives from members of the forum, namely the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Timor-Leste, the AICHR Chairman and Member Representatives, Chairman of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission U Hla Myint

and members U Paw Lwin Sein and Dr Tin Maung Maung Than.

At the meeting, ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights Chairperson Mr Keo Remy gave an opening speech. The chair of the forum, the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines (CHRP), discussed the activities and developments following the first meeting of the SEANF Working Group in 2022.

After that, the Chairman of the ASEAN Intergovernmental

Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) explained the activities and priorities of the AICHR being implemented in 2022-2023. At the meeting, the Chairman of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission suggested ways for further cooperation between AICHR-SEANF.

Afterwards, the Chairmen of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and SEANF made concluding remarks.

— MNA

Announcement to invite applications for entrance to postgraduate medical courses in 2023 Academic Year

THE eligible applicants wishing to attend postgraduate medical diploma courses, master's medical courses and doctoral courses for the 2023 Academic Year to be conducted at universities of medicines and medical-related universities under the Department of Human Resources for Health of the Ministry of Health can send their applications for the post-graduate courses to the universities they wish to attend, not later than 19-8-2022, and for detailed information, they can browse Facebook Page and website of the Ministry of Health and website of the Department of Human Resources for Health and websites of relevant universities.

Ministry of Health

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 9:00 hrs M.S.T on 21-6-2022)

Flood condition of Ayeyawady River

According to the (08:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Shwegu has exceeded by about (1)cm above its danger level. It may continue to rise from the present water level by about (2)inches during the next (1) day and may remain above its danger level.

Advisory

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas in Shwegu Township, to take precaution measure. — Department of Meteorology and Hydrology

Informative Digital Mapping of Yangon nears completion

YANGON'S first Informative Digital Map project being implemented by the Yangon City Development Committee's Urban Planning Department with the assistance of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is 80 per cent complete.

From 2018 to March 2022, with the help of JICA, the Yangon City Development Committee's Urban Planning Department cooperated in the project.

The project is based on the current mapping data of the Yangon Mapping Project (YMP), and Yangon City municipal area inside Yangon Ring Road drawn on a 1: 5,000 scale map.

The southwest Yangon Region is based on a Digital Topographic Map with a scale of 1: 10,000.

It aims to create five surveyors (CORS) and a data centre as an accurate collection is important for the future.

Urban planning staff and JICA Team staff were divided



Yangon's first Informative Digital Map project is underway.



into 17 groups.

A total of 34 mobile phones, 34 cameras and GIS software were used on the ground, and GIS experts sat in the office and participated in real-time work.

Socioeconomic connections of more than seven million people living in around one million buildings in the 33 townships of Yangon, safe flow of goods and

parking lots for urban dwellers, physical fitness areas and essential green grass areas will also be identified for mapping.

In line with international standards for zoning, based on the advice of experts, it was implemented in a total of eight layers: four layers of socioeconomic, two layers of business, and two industrial layers.

Among the Public Facility Layer; wholesale and retail markets, Crematorium, Cemetery, Slaughterhouse, National Stadium, Prison, Parks and Stadiums were designated as public areas by the Yangon City Development Committee.

Next, Technical Infrastructure Layer includes Railways, Airport, Wastewater Disposal

System, River, Creek and Lake, Water Supply, Garbage Disposal Area, Electricity, Port and others.

The District Plan and the Big Project Proposal will be presented in separate layers. People can see all the layers together in the Overview of the Yangon Zoning Plan. — TWA/GNLM

Express trains cheaper than express bus fares to resume



The Yangon-Mandalay Express Train at the Yangon Central Station.

MYANMA Railways is planning to resume express trains soon, which have been temporarily suspended, with a cheaper fare than long-distance express buses to make it easier for the public. This includes the No 5 Yangon-Mandalay up train and the No 6 down train, No 61 Yangon-Pyay up train and the No 62 down train.

Although Myanmar Railways sets the prices of express train tickets at the same prices before, the prices will be likely to be higher in the future, according to U Thaug Htike, Superintendent of the Yangon Railway Station.

However, the increased prices will be much cheaper than bus fares in order not to be a burden on the travellers, and Myanmar Railways will not increase commuter train ticket prices. Currently, the No 3 Yangon-Mandalay up train, No 1 Yangon-Mandalay up train, No 89 Yangon-Mawlamyine up train, No 71 Yangon-Pyay up train, and No 63 Yangon-Pyay up train are running from the Yangon Railway Station. In addition, Yangon-Bago trains, Insein-Okkan trains and the daily commuter trains are running regularly. — TWA/GNLM

Pigeon pea price gets downward trends than black grams

THE price of pigeon pea is lower than the price of black gram, according to the Bayintnaung Brokerage-based pulses traders. Both of them are mainly exported to India from Myanmar.

As of 18 June 2022, a tonne of black gram was K1,610,000 while a tonne of pigeon pea was K1,410,000 in the Yangon pulses market. On 21 June 2022, the price of the former was K1,615,000

per tonne while the latter was K1,391,000 per tonne, therefore, the price of black gram was up and the price of pigeon pea was down.

Of many types of pigeon peas, the red type is the most expensive, and hence, most cultivated. In the last week of August 2017, the Yangon pulses market was closed for four days due to a temporary ban on pulses imports to India for about seven months. As



Pieces of pigeon peas (top right) and a plantation of pigeon peas (above).

there were no exports to India after August 2017, the prices of pigeon pea and black gram dropped, and the relevant authority set the price at K400,000 for a tonne of black gram and K500,000 for a tonne of pigeon pea.

In the 2022 monsoon season in India, the two largest pulses-growing states are switching to higher-yielding cotton, soybeans, sugarcane and maize instead of pulses.

As a result, monsoon pulses are estimated to fall by between five per cent and 15 per cent, and Myanmar pulses trader Ko Htay estimates that pigeon pea will fetch a good price. — TWA/GNLM

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, charcoal, foodstuffs, consumer goods, feedstuffs, and unregistered vehicles seized

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

Under the instructions of the Chairman of the Anti-Illicit Trade Task Force, a combined inspection team conducted inspections on 17 June.

A total of 3.7034 tonnes of illegal timber parts at an estimated value of K2,444,244 were seized from a six-wheel truck worth K30 million near the 50-corner bus stop in Dagon Myothit (North) Township and effective action was taken under the Forest Law.

In addition, the inspections were carried out under the supervision of the Ayeyawady Region

Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force on 17 and 18 June.

A total of 4.0662 tonnes of illegal timbers (approximately K723,080) were seized in Kyangin and Ingapu townships on 17 June and a total of 1.2704 tonnes of illegal hardwood parts (approximately K1,358,280) on 18 June. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

Similarly, the combined team under the management of the Magway Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force made inspections.

They confiscated K2 million worth of a Toyota Mark II car and K2.5 million worth of a Toyota Alphard car in Yenangyoung



Officials confiscate timbers in Yangon Region.

township on 17 June. The action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

A total of 263 bags of illegal charcoal at an estimated value of K50,495, 51.2608 tonnes of illegal teak logs worth K30,756,480 and a total of 6.5142 tonnes of other timbers worth K1,738,478 were captured in Pwintbyu, Minbu and Aunglan townships on 20 June. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

Similarly, on 21 June, a total of 2.8898 tonnes of illegal timbers at an estimated value of K808,090 in Pwintbyu township, and the

action was taken under the Forest Law.

On 18 June, an inspection team led by Thandwe District Forest Department captured a total of 7.6240 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K1,261,436 in Thandwe township under the supervision of the Rakhine State Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

On 20 June, the on-duty team at the Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) Checkpoint seized foodstuffs worth K4,560,000 without official documents from a Hyundai Porter II vehicle (approximately K15

million) heading from Myawady to Hpa-an.

In addition, on the same day, K3,510,000 worth of animal feedstuffs and consumer goods which were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) from two trucks heading from Myawady to Yangon were seized. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Therefore, 14 arrests (approximately K95,987,503) were made on 17, 18, 20 and 21 June, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. —MNA



Seized illegal feedstuffs in Kayin State.

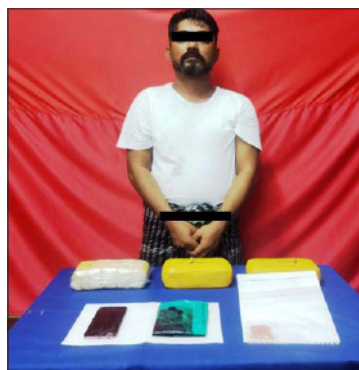
Stimulant tablets seized in several townships

DRUGS were seized in Kyauktada, Mongkhet and Tachilek townships, according to the Myanmar Police Force.

On 20 June at 3:45 pm, a combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force examined the suspected Thura Win (aka) Gani on Bogyoke Aung San Road, No 8 Ward of Kyauktada Township and confiscated 30,000 stimulant tablets.

On the same day, a combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force conducted inspections on the Mongkhet-Mongyang Road near Wanmai Village of Mongkar Village-tract in Mongkhet Township and the suspected Lu Kyi was seen with a motorcycle, thus the team carried out inspections on him and seized 10,000 stimulant tablets.

Similarly, on 19 June evening, a combined team con-



Thura Win (aka) Gani is pictured along with seized drugs.

sisting of members of the Shan State Police Force searched the house of Aik Tit and arrested altogether with Aung Myint Oo, Zaw Lwin Oo, San Yi and Aik Yi, totalling five persons and 2,400 stimulant tablets in Yangkyauk Village of Mongkoe Village-tract in Tachilek Township.

The suspects were prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, stated the MPF. — MNA

K4.21 billion worth of stimulant tablets seized in Hmawby township

K4.21 billion worth of 4.2 million stimulant tablets were seized in Hmawby township of Yangon Region, Myanmar Police Force stated.

A combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force searched

the house of Aung Min in Hmawby township of Yangon Region, and captured over 4.2 million stimulant tablets which were put into Thanaka boxes, snacks and dried coconut with Khin Maung Htun and Ko Ko Naing on 1 June.

According to the investigation, trafficker Aung Min is not only a fugitive from the drugs case that 147,750 stimulant tablets were captured in Maungtau township of Rakhine State in August 2018 but also a suspect in custody of Maungtau Myoma Police station on 16 May 2022.

The suspects are prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law and police are carrying out the investigation, the Myanmar Police Force stated. — MNA



Arrestees are seen along with seized stimulant pills.

LOCAL BUSINESS

Seeds, fertilizers to be available at reasonable rates

THE Myanmar Paddy Producers Association will reportedly strive for the farmers to get seeds and fertilizers at a reasonable rate.

The association will contact the farmers to the importer companies so that they can buy the seeds and fertilizers at a cheaper rate than the prevailing market price in the monsoon season.

Those enthusiastic buyers can directly contact the Myanmar Paddy Producers Association or through the region and state association branches within two days starting from 21 June.

Only an immediate payment method is accepted for now. The prices of seeds stand at K11,500 per basket of Sinthuka seed and Byautthuka seed, K12,000 for Pakan paddy seed, K6,000 per 1 kg-bag of New Aya seed, K23,000 per 21 kg-bag of Aya Min seeds, K18,000 per 21 kg-bag of Sinthuka seed and K19,000 per 21 kg-bag of Hnankauktun.

Urea fertilizer is imported from Indonesia and Iran and it is priced at K83,500 per bag.

Those interested can buy them through the contact num-



Urea fertilizer is imported from Indonesia and Iran and it is priced at K83,500 per bag.

ber of UMFCCI (01 2314841, 09 5029755, 09 401326717, 09 799293818) and email: mppa.org.mm@gmail.com.

On 16 June, the Urea Fertilizer Purchase and Distribution Committee also sold about 75,000 tonnes of urea fertilizer at a fair rate. Those fertilizers are imported with the foreign currency that was sold by the Central Bank of Myanmar.

This scheme started on 11 June and urea fertilizers were distributed to the 291 retail

shops in 136 townships across 11 regions and states, with an immediate payment service.

However, the prices differ in regions and states after adding the transport charges. The prices of urea fertilizer per 50-kg bag were K86,000 in Yangon warehouse, K87,800 in Bago city, K88,600 in Pyay, K88,600 in Mandalay Region, K89,000 in Magway Region, K89,100 in Salin/ Pwintbyu area, K88,800 in Thaton and Mawlamyine cities, K89,500 in Monywa, K89,800 in YeU and

Shwebo areas in Sagaing Region, K88,000 in Thongwa, K86,500 in Htantabin, Yangon Region, K92,600 in Sittway and K99,400 in Maungtau, Rakhine State, K88,800 in Hpa-an and K89,300 in Hlaingbwe, Kayin State, K88,200 in Patheingyi and K88,100 in Hinthada, Ayeyawady Region, K96,000 in Kengtung and K100,800 in Mongton in the eastern Shan State, K92,000 in Lashio and K90,100 in Kyaukse in the northern Shan State and K89,500 in Taunggyi, K88,800 in

Kalaw and K92,000 in Mongpan in the southern Shan State.

The farmers can take out purchase certificates free of charge from the agriculture management team in the respective village-tract. They can buy the urea fertilizer at the reference rate issued by the committee at the respective shops in each township.

If they find it hard to buy them at the reference rate at the respective shops or they face any difficulty in purchasing them, they can contact the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development via 067 410035, the Cooperative Department via 067 410040 and the Rural Development Department via 067 418621 and township-level Urea Fertilizer Purchase and Distribution Committees in the regions and states.

The committee, in cooperation with a consortium comprising fertilizer, seeds and mineral nutrient businesspersons and member companies and Myanmar Rice Federation, is providing service for the farmers to buy the quality urea fertilizer at a cheaper price than the current market price. — NN/GNLM

Mango season in Kanbalu District ends

MANGO season in Kanbalu District, Sagaing Region has come to an end after harvesting Seintalone and other mango varieties, said U Than Tun Oo, an official of the Agriculture Department's nursery farm in Sagaing Region.

"Seintalone mango har-

vest season lasted from the middle of May to the of May. Shwehintha and Padamyar Ngamauk mango varieties are harvested in June. High-quality mango fetches K150-200 per piece, while low-quality mango was priced at K70-80 per piece. Mango of inferior

quality is distributed to the domestic market. A mango basket carrying 60 pieces is worth K8,000-10,000. After harvesting Padamyar Ngamauk and Shwehintha mango varieties around 20 June, mango season shut down," he elaborated.

At present, cutting mango branches and soil treatment for the next season are being undertaken. Only about 2,000 out of 3,000 acres of mango plantation in Kanbalu and Kyunhla townships yielded fruit. However, the yield rate is down by one-third this year.

"The yield rate per acre varies on the age of mango trees. A 12-year-old mango tree can produce 80 to 100 mangoes. The yield rate is over 300 in the young mango tree," said U Than Tun Oo.

This year, the mango market does not go well as mango growers have to bear addition-



al charges like transportation charges to China owing to the virus policy.

"If a mango basket is offered K35,000, a grower earns a profit of only K14,000. The high transport cost hinders the trade," he added.

Some brokers came to Kanbalu District to purchase Seintalone, while some farms deliver the mango to Muse border trade zone and domestic markets such as Yangon,

Mandalay, Shwebo, Monywa and Myitkyina.

"If mango meets quality criteria in Muse border, it is priced at K200 per piece. If they are ripe in Muse, it is worth only K80-100 per piece. If it takes five to six days to transport the mangoes to Muse, the over-ripe mangoes are discarded. Some growers make losses either. Yet, most of the farmers generate a certain profit," U Than Tun Oo stated. — Lu Lay/GNLM



A consumer is seen buying mangoes from a street vendor.

OPINION

Be a powerful economic drive for the nation

THE prosperity of the nation and the food sufficiency are the main themes for modernizing the country. It is because the food supply is essential for the survival of every citizen. Hence, the government set up the aforesaid themes as the national visions of the State.

In order to accomplish the national vision, both government and people are to make all-out efforts for raising the productivity in order to develop the State economy. As the military might and the security might are based on the economic might, the economic strength is the most crucial for the nation.

Being an agro-based country, Myanmar has been still striving for improvement of agriculture and livestock farms since yore to supply food to the people. Hence, Myanmar has never been facing famine till today. Depending on the climatic conditions, the high per-acre yield of crops is sufficient for all the people.

Indeed, Myanmar is located on fertile soil and good water sources. However, the paces of the government cannot totally turn to development tasks of the nation due to the outbreak of COVID-19 and occurrences of armed conflicts. Consequently, the country cannot enjoy the deserved development of the economy.

Actually, if the agriculture and livestock farms can be improved with modern techniques combined with the invaluable experiences of the local farmers to order to produce marketable crops and manufacture the increased products, it is sure that the country would have economic growth. As such, not only the government but the people

strive to surge the economy at the township, district, region/state and national levels, and the country will secure achievement in all sectors.

Local farmers need to consider how to increase per-acre yield of crops and how to improve the quality of crops on their farms. Likewise, they should uphold a concept to distribute the quality strains of crops to other farmers so as to raise the production volume of crops which will bring food sufficiency for all the people as well as the chance to export the surplus volume of crops to earn incomes.

All authorities and farmers need to join hands in increasing per-acre yield of crops, availability of quality strains of crops and modern agricultural techniques in the cultivation of paddy, various edible oil crops, pulses and beans. Only when the production of agricultural produce volume is high will the whole nation have food sufficiency as well as a high capacity for the economic drive.



BY CHIT KO PE

UNINVITED, Covid-19 sneakily came in. It brought ill-effects to humankind. To date, more than 6.3 million people across the world succumbed to it. Mercy is not on Myanmar's side as well with

the fatality of almost 20,000 so far. Though survived, we still reel from the grief that is further compounded by business loss, job loss, income loss, opportunity loss and whatnot. Negative images abound around us.

Covid-19 seems diminished and subsided now. But it is not entirely out of view. Our present livelihood still poses precarious and insecure. Nevertheless, we have to move on with great cautions against Covid-19.

We have combated Covid-19 with 3Ns (New Normal Norms) that stay rooted in us for now and ever. Keeping abreast with the changes in personal hygiene and workplace hygiene, there is a beacon of hope shining on us amid fear of Covid-19.

A Japanese saying goes: "Adversity is a foundation of virtue." This adversity of Covid-19 does make us wise. Indeed, now we are wiser than before.

It is a social cohesion that conquers Covid-19. The community where everyone is somehow connected as families or relatives or friends or residents plays an important role to get us united by sharing and caring in the face of Covid-19. Everyone is an equal living object under the sky irrespective of race or religion or region or social status.

The world has witnessed the humanitarian contributions extended to the needy — persons or nations by the rich ones offering food, medication, vaccination as well as monetary assistance. A sense of humanity matters most in the way we live. This

is the primary insight shown to everyone on earth on how to appreciate the very present moments of togetherness and live a fulfilling and purposeful life.

Our daily actions and undertakings have been so far aligned and fitted with 3Ns that get personal hygiene developed by —

- wearing masks indoors/outdoors whenever necessary,
- getting hands washed at the entry of the workplace,
- working at six feet distance from others,
- coughing or sneezing into elbow or paper tissue,
- disposing of the soiled substances into a covered bin,
- avoiding spitting in open or public places,
- having a meal at own desk or 6 feet away from others,
- taking off clothes for washing and taking bath upon arrival at home, and
- having nutritious food intake and staying fit with sufficient rest/sleep.

Likewise, the workplace hygiene is boosted by 3 Ns of -

- sanitizing daily on desks/

chairs/hand-touch areas — a doorknob, handle, remote control, flask button, etc,

- disinfecting weekly on the floor and wall,
- opening the windows for some time to get natural ventilation,
- installing sufficient wash basins at entry/exit points of the work compound,
- providing rest areas with good ventilation,
- facilitating online meeting

With repeated follow-ups day by day, the changed practices are consistently instilled and become normalized norms for all. People have learned to transform and get themselves value-added with moral goodness. A smart nation needs such public-spirited and well-behaved citizens.

Beyond midnight the darkness starts to fade away making a way for light. Cons of Covid-19 make a way for pros of such a virtue based on ethics of humanity. Altruism sets to thrive.

It is good in every evil.

Air industry could fly back into black next year, IATA says

More than 1,200 aircraft are expected to be delivered in 2022, while cargo volumes should reach a record 68.4 million tonnes "despite economic challenges" ...

GLOBAL air transport is on course to return to profit after two pandemic-battered years but the war in Ukraine and the cost-of-living crisis lurk as threats, the industry's world body said on Monday.

Renewed profitability "appears within reach" in 2023, the International Air Transport Association said, predicting a rebound in passenger levels to 83 per cent of pre-pandemic levels this year.

Industry losses are expected to drop to \$9.7 billion in 2022, a "huge improvement" from \$137.7 billion in 2020 and \$42.1 billion in 2021, IATA said in an upgraded industry outlook at its annual general meeting in Doha.

People are flying

"Airlines are resilient. People are flying in ever greater numbers. And cargo is perform-

ing well against a backdrop of growing economic uncertainty," IATA director general Willie Walsh said.

The air industry was sent reeling by the pandemic, with passenger numbers plunging 60 per cent in 2020 and remaining 50 per cent down in 2021. Airlines lost nearly \$200 billion over two years.

While some firms in the sector went bankrupt, others — often those backed by states — have emerged with profits intact.

IATA said there were positive signs in the latest figures, with North American carriers expected to return an \$8.8 billion profit this year.

More than 1,200 aircraft are expected to be delivered in 2022, while cargo volumes should reach a record 68.4 million tonnes "despite economic challenges", it added.

"Strong pent-up demand,

the lifting of travel restrictions in most markets, low unemployment in most countries, and expanded personal savings are fuelling a resurgence in demand that will see passenger numbers reach 83 per cent of pre-pandemic levels in 2022," IATA said.

Clouds on the horizon

Turnover should reach 93 per cent of 2019 levels this year or \$782 billion, a rebound of 54.5 per cent on 2021, as revenues from passenger flights more than double to \$498 billion.

Cargo, a rare bright spot for air transport in the depths of the pandemic, will retreat slightly with revenues of \$191 billion — still double the level of 2019.

Clouds remain on the horizon, however, especially the war in Ukraine after the closure of Russian airspace to several long-haul carriers forced them

into costly detours.

Airlines, desperate to put the coronavirus pandemic behind them, are facing a potential summer of chaos with shortages and strikes that could threaten their recovery.

In the past few weeks, delays and cancellations caused by a lack of staff at airports and strikes for better pay have

wreaked havoc upon travellers.

The problems originate with the pandemic when airlines and airports laid off thousands of workers during its worst-ever crisis. Now, they are scrambling for employees.

However, Walsh played down the difficulties, saying they weren't widespread and should ease in time.



Indonesian budget airline Adam Air planes are parked at the Soekarno-Hatta airport in Jakarta. PHOTO: JEWEL SAMAD/AFP/FILE

High inflation will also erode the purchasing power of consumers, although airlines could profit from rising prices and interest rates as their debts are locked in at lower levels.

Wary of new coronavirus variations

Meanwhile, the industry remains wary of new coronavirus variations that could close borders once again.

China is still bound up with restrictions that are depressing the world's second-biggest domestic market and are creating "chaos" in global logistics, said IATA's chief economist Marie Owens Thomsen.

IATA originally planned to hold its annual general meeting in Shanghai, but moved it to Qatar as China, pursuing its "zero-Covid" policy, continues to grapple with the pandemic.

SOURCE: AFP

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Heads of Service Organizations confirmed and appointed

1. The State Administration Council has confirmed the appointment of the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names on the expiry of the one-year probationary period.

Name	Appointment
(a) U Aung Thaik Tun	Rector University for Development of National Races of the Union (Sagaing) Department of Education and Training Ministry of Border Affairs
(b) Dr Than Tun	Rector Patheingyi University Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education

2. The State Administration Council has appointed U Zaw Min Tun from the Ministry of Defence as Director-General of the Department of Investigation under the Anti-Corruption Commission office on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

Colour classification for storms

Yellow Stage

THE level of yellow colour defines the situation to notice the condition of a storm which is over the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea.

Orange Stage

THE level of orange colour defines the situation to especially monitor the change of a storm condition depending on the information that the storm which leads to the coastal area turns to the residences.

Red Stage

THE level of red colour defines the situation to move to the safer places as the storm will fall to the coastal area under possible dangers beyond 12 hours.

Brown Stage

THE level of brown colour defines the situation for taking safe shelters at a time when the area is in danger triggered by the storm.

Green Stage

THE level of green colour defines the situation for the people to return home as the storm weakens.

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TECH/ENVIRON WORLD

South Korea launches domestically-developed space rocket

SOUTH Korea launched its first domestically-developed space rocket on Tuesday, the government said, the country's second attempt after a launch last October failed.

The Korea Satellite Launch Vehicle II, a 200-tonne liquid fuel rocket informally called Nuri, lifted off from the launch site in Goheung at 4:00 pm (0700 GMT).

"Nuri has completed its flight according to plan. Engineers are now analyzing its flight data, which will take around 30 minutes to complete," said Oh Tae-seok, Seoul's deputy minister of science, technology and innovation.

South Korea's second test launch of its homegrown space rocket comes eight months after the first test failed to put a dummy satellite into orbit, a setback for the country's attempt to join the ranks of advanced space-far-

ing nations.

All three stages of the rocket worked in the first test last October, with the vehicle reaching an altitude of 700 kilometres (430 miles), and the 1.5-tonne payload separating successfully.

But it failed to put a dummy satellite into orbit after the third-stage engine stopped burning earlier than scheduled.

However, on Tuesday it appeared that stage of the launch had worked as planned.

"Nuri separates dummy satellite," South Korea's YTN Television reported minutes after lift-off, adding shortly after that the launch "appears to be a success". In Tuesday's test, in addition to the dummy satellite, Nuri carried a rocket performance verification satellite and four cube satellites developed by four local universities for research purposes.—AFP



South Korea's 'Nuri' rocket successfully reached its target altitude of 700 km and put a satellite into orbit. **PHOTO: YONHAP/AFP**

Thrice postponed UN biodiversity summit set for December



Animals live wild on the slopes of Qomolangma, the Tibetan name for Everest. **PHOTO: JIGME DORJE / XINHUA**

A repeatedly postponed UN summit tasked with protecting nature and halting accelerating

species loss will be held in early December, more than two years behind schedule, sources told

AFP

Originally slated to take place in China, the COP15 conference on biological diversity — or biodiversity — is now set for 5 to 17 December in Montreal, they said.

"Governments have finally made a decision on where and when the COP will be held," said Li Shuo, a climate, biodiversity and ocean policy advisor for Greenpeace East Asia.

"This should now focus everyone's minds on the quality of the deal," he tweeted as nearly 200 governments gathered in Nairobi for technical talks in preparation for the 12-day conference in December.—AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Africa needs \$25 bn a year for full electricity access: IEA

THE number of Africans with access to electricity fell during the Covid pandemic, but \$25 billion in annual investments could bring full coverage by 2030, the International Energy Agency said Monday. The IEA said 600 million people, or 43 per cent of the continent's population, lack access to electricity — mostly in sub-Saharan Africa.

The number of people living without electricity increased by four per cent, or 25 million people, between 2019 and 2021, after a decade of progress.

Before Covid, there had been "lots of good developments in countries such as Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda," IEA chief Fatih Birol told AFP ahead of the release of the Paris-based agency's African Energy Outlook 2022. "But because of Covid and the economic difficulties, we see that this positive trend is reversing now," Birol said. Russia's invasion of Ukraine has added to the economic strains on Africa from the Covid pandemic, as the conflict has sent the prices of energy, food and other commodities soaring, according to the IEA.—AFP

Modern phoenix: The bird brought back from extinction in Japan

EVERY day for the past 14 years, 72-year-old Masaoki Tsuchiya has set out before sunrise to search for a bird rescued from extinction in Japan.

Starting his car under star-dotted skies unpolluted by light, he works alone in the pre-dawn chill, marking sightings or absences in a planner, inter-

rupted only by the crackle of a walkie-talkie.

The bird he is looking for is called "toki" in Japanese, and its presence on his home of Sado island is testament to a remarkable conservation programme. In just under two decades, Japan's population of wild toki has gone from zero to nearly 500, all on Sado,

where the bird's delicate pink plumage and distinctive curved beak now draw tourists. It's a rare conservation success story when one in eight bird species globally are threatened with extinction, and involved international diplomacy and an agricultural revolution on a small island off Japan's west coast.—AFP



Wild tokis have been brought back from local extinction on Japan's Sado island. **PHOTO: AFP**



A resident from the Alexandra township gets tested for COVID-19 in Johannesburg, South Africa, Wednesday, 29 April 2020. PHOTO: JEROME DELAY/AFP/FILE

South African trade minister welcomes COVID-19 vaccine patent waiver

SOUTH African Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition Ebrahim Patel on Saturday welcomed the World Trade Organization (WTO)'s agreement to waive COVID-19 vaccine patents, 20 months after the African nation proposed a broad waiver to combat the pandemic.

The WTO's 12th Ministerial Conference closed Friday at dawn at the WTO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, with members agreeing on key issues such as pandemic response and

TRIPS (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) waiver related to COVID-19.

The recent agreement allows governments to authorize local manufacturers to produce vaccines or their ingredients, substances or elements and utilize processes which are covered by patents without the permission of the patent holders for five years.

South Africa and India first proposed the waiver to the WTO in October 2020, with support of

other developing countries during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

South Africa "fought" for the agreement until it was concluded in the early hours on Friday morning, Patel told a media briefing at O.R. Tambo International Airport, Johannesburg.

For a number of months after South Africa tabled the proposal, developed countries blocked any attempt to get that discussion to move into text-based negotiation, he added.—Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Almost 2 in 3 adults in US Hawaii suffer negative effect of COVID-19

ALMOST 2 in 3 adults in US state of Hawaii reported negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health, food security, job security, housing and poverty, said a new report from the University of Hawaii.

According to the "Health Effects and Views of COVID-19 in Hawaii" report released by the University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization (UHERO) on Monday, the pandemic has had significant adverse impacts across multiple dimensions in the only island US state beyond the direct effects of the disease itself.

Around 22.9 per cent of respondents reported having their savings depleted, 17.8 per cent had trouble with the education of their children, 14.7 per cent were unable to pay bills, and 12.5 per cent were furloughed or reduced their working hours, said the report.

In addition, the report stated that 12.4 per cent of respondents had a close friend who died and 9.2 per cent had a family member who died.

The report pointed out that over 93.3 per cent of respondents were vaccinated, while 6.7 per cent remain unvaccinated. Approximately 24.8 per cent of respondents reported a confirmed COVID-19 positive test result. Of the respondents who tested positive, 31.5 per cent reported having lingering long-term effects following acute infection.—Xinhua

Content of textbooks rationalized in view of COVID-19 pandemic: NCERT

NATIONAL Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), an autonomous organization of the government, Director Prof Dinesh Prasad Saklani on Monday said that rationalization of content in the textbooks will be done in view of the COVID-19 pandemic to reduce the content load on students from Classes 6 to 12.

Speaking to ANI Prof Saklani said, "We all know that the COVID-19 pandemic impacted all over the world and has affected children's learning very much. So the NCERT has reduced the content from the books and removed some. I have to say that not only in History but the content has also been removed in all subjects including Science, Mathematics, History, Social and Political life -II. The decision was taken by the Experts and teachers of all subjects, and NCERT accepted it."—ANI

Philippine health official says COVID-19 cases start to peak

THE steady uptick in the COVID-19 infections in the Philippines signals the start of the peak of cases, the Philippines' Department of Health (DOH) said on Monday.

"Right now, (we see) that the number of cases is continuously increasing," Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire told a television interview. "We can

see that this is really the start in the peak in the number of cases."

Vergeire said the Southeast Asian country is seeing a trend similar to what happened in September 2021 and January 2022. The Philippines reported the highest single-day tally on 15 January this year, with 39,004 new cases.

The Philippines has seen

four COVID-19 waves since the pandemic hit the country in January 2020.

Vergeire said the DOH recorded around 2,458 cases across the country last week.

In Metro Manila, she said, the number of cases has doubled already. "In their average number of cases from the previous week, we can see a 70 per cent increase in the number of cases."

Infectious diseases expert Edsel Maurice Salvana downplayed the spike in COVID-19 cases, saying the uptick in cases is expected due to the detection of the new, more transmissible coronavirus variants. Salvana said the country's COVID-19 cases "remains manageable at this time due to the low health-care utilization rate." The DOH blamed the slight increase of COVID-19 infections on the spread of the more transmissible variants, the increase in people's mobility, and the people's "waning immunity".—Xinhua



A passenger sits inside a tricycle covered with a reminder to wear a mask, part of the Covid-19 health protocols in Manila on 16 Febautry 2022. PHOTO: TED ALJIBE/AFP

Long COVID could affect up to 30 pct of COVID-19 patients: US media

LONG COVID has been found to affect between 10 per cent and 30 per cent of those who contract COVID-19, regardless of whether they have a mild or serious case, US local media has reported.

Long COVID is the term

commonly used to describe symptoms stemming from COVID-19 long after a person no longer tests positive, according a recent report on NJ.com, a local news website for the US state of New Jersey. "In New Jersey,

that would mean that roughly 600,000 of the more than two million who have tested positive for COVID-19 since the onset of the pandemic either have or have had long COVID," the report said.—Xinhua

ECONOMY WORLD

Foreign IT giants not registered in Japan will be punished: minister

FOREIGN technology giants that do not comply with requests to register their local units in Japan as required by law will be subject to penalties, Justice Minister Yoshihisa Furukawa said Tuesday.

Most of the 48 foreign IT companies, including Google LLC, Meta Platforms Inc. and Twitter Inc., that have received registration requests from the Justice Ministry and the communications' ministry have so far failed to comply, according to Furukawa.

The Japanese government is aiming to strengthen

business monitoring of foreign companies that offer services used by a large number of people in the country.

With cyberbullying a prevalent issue, the registration of social media companies will also make it possible for Japanese courts to request user details.

According to Japan's corporate law, local representatives of a foreign company that fails to register despite an intent to conduct business in Japan will be subject to a fine of up to one million yen (\$7,400).—Kyodo



Most of the 48 foreign IT companies, including Google LLC, Meta Platforms Inc. and Twitter Inc., that have received registration requests from the Justice Ministry and the communications ministry have so far failed to comply. Smartphone and tablet computer apps are seeing increasing use in Japanese schools. **PHOTO: KYODO**

China's oil imports from Russia jump 55% on-year: customs



A picture shows the "Rosneft" oil tanker "Belokamenka" anchored in Kola bay, near the Russian northern seaport of Murmansk. **PHOTO: AFP / LUCIE GODEAU/FILE**

CHINA'S imports of oil from Russia rose 55 per cent in May, customs data showed on Monday, with the West sanctioning fuel imports from Moscow over its invasion of Ukraine.

The world's second-biggest economy imported around 8.42 million tonnes of oil from Russia last month, surpassing its shipments from Saudi Arabia.

Last week, President Xi

Jinping assured Vladimir Putin of China's support on Russian "sovereignty and security".

The customs data comes four months into the war, with other buyers avoiding Russian energy imports.

The number was also a spike from the 5.44 million tonnes China imported in May 2021, according to figures from the Customs Administration, and helped

Russia overtake Saudi Arabia as China's main source of oil.

Earlier this month, Chinese state media said Beijing was willing to "intensify strategic coordination between the two countries".

The Kremlin said the two leaders had agreed to ramp up economic cooperation in the face of "unlawful" Western sanctions.—AFP

Dutch join Germany, Austria, in reverting to coal

THE Dutch joined Germany and Austria in reverting to coal power on Monday following an energy crisis provoked by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The Netherlands said it would lift all restrictions on power

stations fired by the fossil fuel, which were previously limited to just over a third of output.

Berlin and Vienna made similar announcements on Sunday as Moscow, facing biting sanctions over Ukraine, cuts

gas supplies to energy-starved Europe.

"The cabinet has decided to immediately withdraw the restriction on production for coal-fired power stations from 2002 to 2024," Dutch climate and energy minister Rob Jetten told journalists in The Hague.

The Dutch minister said his country had "prepared this decision with our European colleagues over the past few days".

Germany however said it still aimed to close its coal power plants by 2030, in light of the greater emissions of climate-changing CO2 from the fossil fuel.

"The 2030 coal exit date is not in doubt at all," economy ministry spokesman Stephan Gabriel Haufe said at a regular news conference.—AFP



Several Dutch villages are known for their concentration of windmills, including Kinderdijk, Zaanse Schans, and Schiedam, home to the tallest windmill in the world. **PHOTO: EXPATICA/AFP**

NEWS IN Brief

Moscow blasts West's 'destructive' grain stance

RUSSIA on Monday blamed the "destructive" stance of the West for soaring grain prices that have sparked fears of a global food crisis following Moscow's military operation in Ukraine.

"Concerning the possibility of famine, more and more experts are leaning towards a pessimistic scenario... and that is the fault of Western regimes, which act as provokers and destroyers," said foreign ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova on Telegram.

According to Zakharova, the West has made "systematic mistakes" in its agricultural policy planning and has caused global inflation with its "short-sighted" financial and monetary mechanisms created during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The West's "illegal restrictions" imposed on Russia since the Kremlin's offensive in Ukraine have also disrupted logistical and financial circuits, particularly for grain exports, she concluded.

The energy price surges are also the result of a "poorly thought-out" energy transition policy by European and North American countries, notably through "the forced introduction of biofuels", she added.—AFP

Kishida eyes reward points system to ease electricity bills



In this September 2010 photo, Tokyo Electric Power Co. workers are seen at work at the central control room of reactor Unit 3 of the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear complex at Okumamachi, northeastern Japan. **PHOTO: TOKYO ELECTRIC POWER CO. VIA KYODO/**

PRIME Minister Fumio Kishida said Tuesday the government plans to ease the impact of rising electricity prices on the public by awarding power-saving households points that can be used to help lower their utility bills.

At the first meeting of a government task force on rising prices ahead of a House of Councillors election next month, the prime minister pledged to protect people's lives and businesses by tackling soaring food and energy prices propelled by the ongoing Russian invasion of

Ukraine.

Besides creating the reward points system to reduce the burden on households, Kishida said emergency measures worth 13 trillion yen (\$96.3 billion), part of which are funded by the private sector, will be implemented swiftly to deal with the rising prices of wheat, fertilizer, livestock feed and energy.

Ahead of the task force meeting, Kishida also heard opinions of food companies on the rising prices of those items.

The recent rise in

consumer prices has been caused by soaring costs of energy, fresh food and other food, according to the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.

With a recent opinion poll suggesting the majority of the public is dissatisfied with the government's response to rising prices, mitigating the impact of higher costs of living is expected to become a major issue in the upper house election on 10 July.

Official campaigning for the election will start on Wednesday.—Kyodo

Petrobras CEO quits in fuel price standoff with Bolsonaro

BRAZIL'S state owned oil company Petrobras has gone through three CEOs in the less than two years because of a spat with President Jair Bolsonaro over fuel prices.

The CEO of Brazil's state-owned oil company Petrobras, who has stayed in his post despite being fired by Jair Bolsonaro in May, resigned Monday after a new fuel price hike that enraged the far-right president.

Jose Mauro Coelho

is the third Petrobras CEO to leave since February last year in a stand-off between the company and Bolsonaro over fuel prices.

Petrobras announced Coelho's resignation on Monday. The company said Fernando Borges — its head of exploration and production — would take over temporarily until government pick Caio Paes de Andrade, an economy ministry official, assumes the top job.—AFP

South Africa's latest hot export to China? Donkeys

CHINESE demand for traditional medicines has sent poachers hunting for African animals from rhinos to pangolins. Now a humbler creature is threatened: donkeys.

Once prized by emperors, a gelatin called ejiao — made from donkey skins — is increasingly sought after by China's middle class.

The health benefits are believed similar to products derived from rhino horns, from working as a blood thinner to acting as an aphrodisiac, which could ease pressure on endangered rhinos.

But as in countries from Burkina Faso to Ken-

ya, South Africa is now seeing its donkey population plunge, threatening other businesses that make soaps and creams from donkey milk.

"In South Africa we

have seen a rapid decline of the donkey population due to illegal slaughter to supply the Chinese skin trade," said Jesse Christelis, co-founder of the Donkey Dairy.

A recent study by researchers from the University of South Africa showed the donkey population shrank from 210,000 in 1996 to about 146,000 in 2019.

The shrinking supply has sent prices soaring. According to Christelis, a donkey would fetch about \$30 at auction five years ago. Now they cost about \$125 each.

That is still a relative bargain in China where donkey hides that sold for \$473 in 2018 now sell for \$1,160. The ejiao produced from them can sell for up to \$360 per kilogramme.— AFP



A Kenyan vendor relies on his donkey to transport water. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/SIMON MAINA/AFP**

The Global New Light of Myanmar
www.gnlm.com.mm

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V AS SOPHIA VOY.NO. (223W/224E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AS SOPHIA VOY.NO. (223W/224E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-6-2022** 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

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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 LAND AND SEA INTERMODAL LOGISTICS
SDN BHD LINE

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Canada announces new Arctic air, missile defences with US



US Special Forces loading snowmobiles onto a Canadian aircraft during an exercise on 12 March. **PHOTO: DOD/AFP**

CANADA'S defence minister announced upgrades to Arctic air and missile defences with the United States on Monday, citing growing threats from Russia and new technologies such as hypersonic missiles.

At a news conference at Canada's largest air base in Trenton, Ontario, Minister Anita Anand

outlined Can\$4.9 billion (US\$3.8 billion) in military spending over the next six years.

The monies are to be spent on land and satellite-based radar that can spot incoming bombers or missiles "over the horizon", as well as a network of sensors with "classified capabilities" to monitor Arctic air and sea ap-

proaches to the continent. It is all part of a modernization of the North American Aerospace Defence Command (NORAD) and early warning systems, which has been stepped up following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February.

The new systems will replace an aging Cold War-era North Warning System, whose almost 50 short- and long-range radar stations from Alaska to northern Quebec are incapable of responding to modern missile threats. "As autocratic regimes threatened the rules-based international order that has protected us for decades, and as our competitors develop new technologies like hypersonic weapons and advanced cruise missiles, there is a pressing need to modernize Canada's NORAD capabilities," Anand said.—AFP

Strike forces cancellation of all Brussels flights

BRUSSELS Airport cancelled all outbound flights on Monday after most security staff joined a nationwide strike for better pay as soaring inflation hit workers' purchasing power.

The stoppage kicked off a week of travel chaos in several parts of Europe, notably a massive rail strike in Britain from Tuesday and, later on, strikes hitting the continent's biggest airline Ryanair in multiple countries.

Brussels Airport informed passengers on its site and social media that all departing flights were scrapped for the day — 232 in total.

Only a quarter of arriving flights were still operating. Freight traffic was unaffected.

The departure hall at the

airport was largely empty, with only around 100 passengers inside, some lining up to change tickets or get assistance while others slumped resignedly in seats or slept on the floor.

Oleksandr Zayikin, a Ukrainian merchant mariner who had been away for four months, told AFP the strike had prevented a reunion with his wife in Istanbul. He had left before Russia's invasion of his country.

"I'm upset," the 29-year-old said, adding he would now probably find a Brussels hotel for a few days.

"In Ukraine it's not a usual thing, we don't have such strikes. But I really respect that people do that," he said.—AFP

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Ukraine says attacks escalating, as Russia-EU tensions surge

RUSSIA'S blockade of Ukrainian grain exports sparked fresh tensions with Europe as fears grow of a global food crisis, while Kyiv accused Moscow of stepping up attacks in the east of the country.

In New York, Dmitry Muratov, the Russian editor-in-chief of the independent newspaper Novaya Gazeta, auctioned off his Nobel Peace Prize gold medal for \$103.5 million to benefit children displaced by the war in Ukraine.

Since being repelled from Kyiv and other parts of Ukraine following their

February invasion, Moscow is focusing its offensive on the eastern Donbas region.

Its navy is blockading ports, which Ukraine says is preventing millions of tonnes of grain from being shipped to world markets, contributing to soaring food prices. Prior to the war, Ukraine was a major exporter of wheat, corn and sunflower oil.

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell called the Russian blockade "a real war crime", which was happening "while in the rest of the world people

are suffering hunger".

Moscow denies responsibility for the disruption to deliveries and, following Borrell's comments, took aim at the "destructive" stance of the West for surging grain prices.

Growing concerns about a food crisis are "the fault of Western regimes, which act as provokers and destroyers," said foreign ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova.

— AFP



Self-propelled howitzers M109A3 shooting on the front line with Russian troops in an unknown place of Ukraine. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kremlin spokesman says Americans captured in Ukraine committed 'crimes'

TWO Americans captured in Ukraine while fighting with Kyiv's military were "endangering" Russian soldiers and should be "held accountable for those crimes," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Monday in an interview with NBC News.

The interview marks the first time the Kremlin has commented on the cases of Alexander Druke and Andy Huynh, both US military veterans, according to NBC.

"They're soldiers of fortune and they were involved in illegal activities on the territory of Ukraine. They were involved in firing and shelling our military personnel. They were endangering their lives," Peskov told the network, in English. "They should be held responsible for those crimes that they have committed," he added in the first bits of the interview made public.—AFP

Hopes fade for swift NATO accession for Finland, Sweden

FINLAND and Sweden are to discuss their stalled NATO bids with Turkey in Brussels on Monday, but hopes are fading they will be able resolve their dispute before an alliance summit next week, experts say.

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg was to meet with representatives from the three countries to try to make progress on the Nordic nations' membership applications, which have been blocked by Ankara.

"I think it is possible but it would be very difficult," Paul Levin, director of the Institute for Turkey Studies at Stockholm University, told AFP.

"It would require both sides to show real willingness to make some compromises," he said.

NATO and the two Nordic countries had expected the application process to be quick.—AFP

Israeli coalition to dissolve parliament, force new elections

ISRAEL'S Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said Monday his governing coalition will dissolve parliament next week, a shock announcement that will give power to Foreign Minister Yair Lapid in days and force new elections.

Bennett and Lapid forged an ideologically disparate alliance one year ago, counting eight-parties broadly united on the desire to end the tenure of former premier Benjamin Netanyahu.

The coalition of hawks, left-wingers and — for the first time in Israeli history — Arab

Islamists, temporarily ushered Israel out of an unprecedented era of political gridlock.

But after a series of defections that put the coalition on the brink of collapse, Bennett said he would support a bill to dissolve parliament next week, triggering a fifth election in less than four years with no guarantee of a viable new administration.

Bennett said that Lapid, a centrist, will take over as prime minister of the caretaker government in line with last year's power-sharing deal.—AFP



Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett has said Foreign Minister Yair Lapid will take over as premier within days. PHOTO: POOL/AFP/FILE

NEWS IN BRIEF

Macron seeks to salvage power after France vote upset

FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron will meet party leaders including the far-right Marine Le Pen for talks, the Elysee said on Monday, after he and his allies lost their overall majority in the legislative elections. Macron's discussions with opposition leaders will start today with Christian Jacob, head of the traditional conservative Republicans (LR) party that has been in decline in recent months but could be courted to give Macron a parliamentary majority.

Socialist Party leader Olivier Faure and Communist Party boss Fabien Roussel, members of the NUPES left-wing alliance, will also meet Macron, although the hard-left Jean-Luc Melenchon, who leads NUPES, is not scheduled to do so.—AFP

Japan, S. Korea, Australia, New Zealand eye summit on NATO fringes

JAPAN, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand are considering holding a four-way summit on the fringes of a NATO leaders' gathering in Spain next week, a source close to the South Korean presidential office said Monday.

The envisaged meeting during the North Atlantic Treaty Organization gathering is seen by the four nations as an attempt to keep an assertive China in check in the Indo-Pacific after Russia's invasion of Ukraine heightened concerns about its implications for the region where Beijing has been expanding its influence.—Kyodo

Mahatma Gandhi's grandson bows out of Indian presidential race

THE grandson of India's independence leader Mahatma Gandhi has dropped out of the race to become president after his name was proposed by an alliance of opposition parties.

Gopalkrishna Gandhi, 77, a diplomat turned politician said

he had declined the request of the 17-party alliance to be their nominee for the largely ceremonial role.

"I am most grateful to them. But having considered the matter deeply I see that the Opposition's candidate should be one who will

generate a national consensus and a national atmosphere beside Opposition unity," Gandhi said in a statement on Monday.

National and state lawmakers are slated to vote on a new president on 18 July. The Indian head of state enjoys certain constitutional powers but largely acts on the advice of the government, making it more of a titular position. But agreeing on a candidate and getting him or her elected would be a symbolic victory for India's splintered opposition after eight years of rule by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

The BJP is likely to announce its own candidate this week and may again put forward the incumbent, Ram Nath Kovind, a member of India's marginalised Dalit community, to serve another term.—AFP



Gandhi was governor of West Bengal state between 2004 and 2009 after being appointed by the then-ruling Congress party. PHOTO: AFP



S. Korea to set up body on wartime labour during Japan's rule: report

THE South Korean government will set up a public-private body to resolve the issue of compensation for forced wartime labour during Japan's colonial rule of the

Korean Peninsula, a local media report said Monday.

The body made up of government officials and experts will be established as early as the end of

this month to prevent the liquidation of Japanese corporate assets that plaintiffs in forced labour lawsuits have seized, according to the Seoul Shinmun report. The plaintiffs are taking steps to realize the liquidation. But Japan has protested to South Korea and warned that liquidating the assets "would invite a grave situation" for both countries.—Kyodo

File photo taken in February 2019, shows people supporting plaintiffs in a wartime forced labour case involving Japanese companies gathering in front of Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. to protest against the company's refusal to pay compensation for forced labour during World War II. PHOTO: KYODO/FILE

Canada announces new Arctic air, missile defences with US
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SPORT

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.

UEFA rubbish French minister's Champions League fake tickets number



Liverpool fans stand outside the Stade de France before last month's Champions League final. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

A senior UEFA representative said on Tuesday he did not believe French Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin's claims about the number of fake tickets in circulation during the chaotic scenes before last month's Champions League final between Liverpool and Real Madrid.

Following the game on 28 May, Darmanin claimed that between 30,000 and 40,000 fake tickets in the hands of Liverpool fans was the cause of problems as police funnelled thousands of fans into overcrowded underpasses around the stadium, leading to the kick-off being delayed by more than 30 minutes.

Martin Kallen, general director of UEFA Events, who are in charge of the body's com-

mercial events, told a hearing at the French Senate, which is investigating the incidents, the figure was much lower.

"We know there were around 2,600 tickets taken to the turnstiles which were fake," Kallen said.

"But a lot of tickets didn't get to the turnstiles... How many? We don't know, we can't really verify.

"We don't believe it's the number mentioned in France, which was more or less 30,000 to 40,000," he added.

Keller said other factors caused the problems at the Stade de France, in mayhem that saw the French police use tear gas at close range, even against children.— AFP

Jabeur hails 'unbelievable' chance to pair up with Serena Williams



Serena Williams in action at Wimbledon in 2021. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

ONS Jabeur said Monday she "cannot wait" to team up with Serena Williams as the American star prepares to return to tennis at the Eastbourne International after nearly a year away. Williams, a 23-year-time Grand Slam singles champion, was last week handed a singles wildcard entry to Wimbledon, which starts next Monday.

The 40-year-old has not played since suffering an inju-

ry during her first-round match at Wimbledon 12 months ago, plummeting to 1,204th in the world rankings.

The seven-time Wimbledon singles champion is set to step up preparations for the All England Club by playing doubles in the grass-court tournament at Eastbourne, but her scheduled practice session on Monday was cancelled.

Tunisia's Jabeur and Williams are expected to begin their doubles campaign on Tuesday against Sara Sorribes Tormo and Marie Bouzkova.

"I'm a good secret keeper," said new world number three Jabeur, fresh from winning on grass in Berlin on Sunday. "Yes, I've known before the French Open.—AFP

Poland exclude Rybus from World Cup for playing in Russia

POLAND defender Maciej Rybus has been dropped from the national team ahead of the 2022 World Cup after signing for a Russian club, the Polish football federation (PZPN) announced on Monday. Rybus, 32, had been criticized for joining Spartak Moscow this month on a free transfer after spending the past five years playing for Lokomotiv Moscow.

Coach Czeslaw Michniewicz told the player that "due to his current club situation, he would not be called up for the national team's September training camp and will not take him into account when determining the composition of the team for the World Cup in Qatar," the PZPN said in a brief statement.

Veteran Rybus is one of Poland's most experienced defend-

ers having represented his country in 66 international matches.

Poland have been drawn in Group C in the World Cup which begins on 21 November along with Argentina, Saudi Arabia and Mexico. Poland refused to

play Russia in their scheduled World Cup play-off semi-final in March following the invasion of Ukraine.— AFP



Poland defender Maciej Rybus has been dropped from the national team ahead of the 2022 World Cup after signing for a Russian club. **PHOTO: AFP**