

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

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

Education and health greatly support the development of the country; I will continue developing the country as the saying "Moving Forward", Senior General stresses



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the Union Government Meeting No 5/2022 in Nay Pyi Taw on 29 July 2022.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said that education and health are very helpful for the development of the country and that he will continue working to develop the country as the saying "Moving Forward". He made the remarks at the Union Government Meeting No 5/2022 held yesterday afternoon at the meeting hall of the Office of the Chairman of the State Administration Council.

Political Development

The Senior General stated that a five-point roadmap and nine objectives have been established since the military assumption of State responsibility.

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

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

In order to prevent the unnecessary loss of human resources, the State Administration Council has publicly invited the basic education staff who are absent from duty to resume their duties and those who take part in armed resistance under various names of groups,

including PDFs, to return to the legal fold if they wish to, and is systematically receiving the returnees.

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

It is known that some of those who have completed the training no longer want to be involved in terrorist attacks and so they fled to the regions within and without the country and are working there for their living. When they see terrorist attacks with their own eyes, they cannot accept such terrible acts at all. On the other hand, they have come to believe in the government's five-point roadmap and its endeavour for

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

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

*Information Team
State Administration Council*

Bago region chief minister calls for relevant department/organizational cooperation for tourism development

BAGO Region Chief Minister U Myo Swe Win called for the relevant departmental/organizational cooperation to speed up the recovery and revival of the regional tourism affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

He remarked at the Regional Tourism Committee's coordination meeting (3/2022) held in Bago yesterday morning.

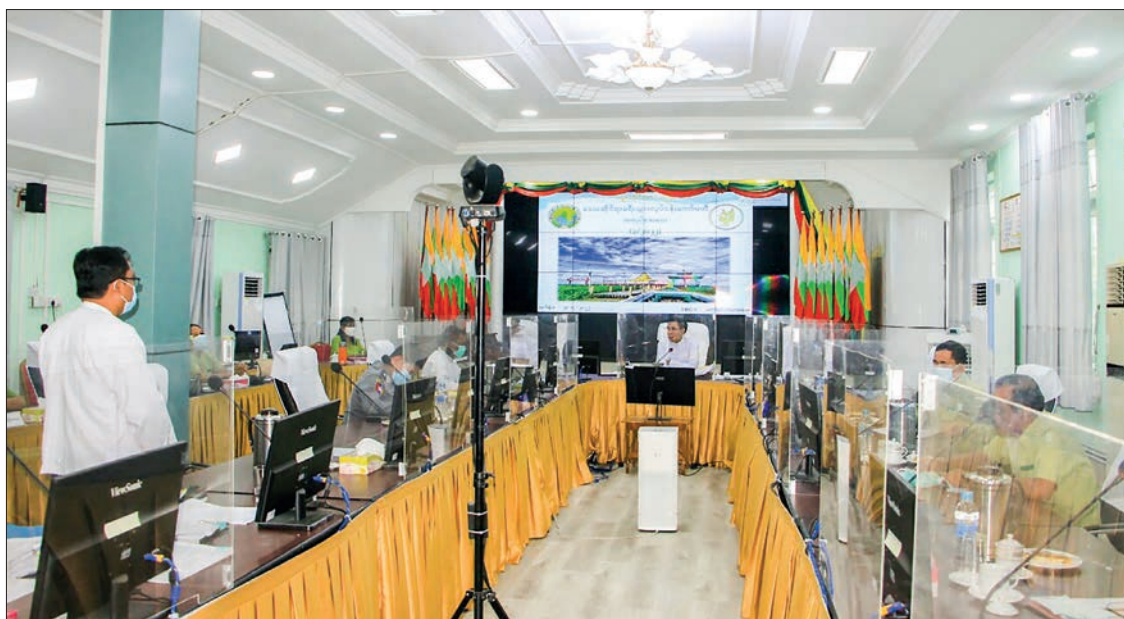
Along with the reduction of COVID-19 cases in the region,

there were five international package tours and visits from Thai tourists in July. The Bago regional government is working to upgrade historical buildings and identify new tourist destinations. With the construction of cultural recreational places, efforts are being made to make Bago city clean and beautiful, the chief minister said.

At the meeting, the regional director of the Hotels and Tourism Directorate presented

the application for a new hotel business licence, the renewal of the travel company business licence and the tourist guide licence, and the prototypes that will be exhibited at the Nay Pyi Taw Gallery on World Tourism Day.

Afterwards, committee members made suggestions and discussed the presentations, and the chief minister urged them to conduct the tasks under the law and rule. —MNA



The coordination meeting (3/2022) of the Bago Region Tourism Committee is in progress.

34 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 29 July, total figure rises to 614,043

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **614,043** after **34** new cases were reported on 29 July 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **592,871** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll still stands at **19,434** without more casualties.—MNA

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Appointment of Service Organizations

THE State Administration Council has appointed the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(1) Dr Khin Thida Aye	Director-General
Deputy Director-General	ASEAN Affairs
ASEAN Affairs Department	Department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
(2) Dr Win Myint	Director-General
Chief Engineer	Electric Power Generation
Electric Power	Enterprise
Generation Enterprise	Ministry of Power
Ministry of Electric	

Situations that require mandatory wearing of face masks announced

- The Ministry of Health has been urging people to wear face masks to prevent the spread of the disease since the beginning of the outbreak of COVID-19.
- As part of the personal protection rules for the COVID-19 disease that the public has to follow in their daily lives, they are informed that it is necessary to wear a face mask in the following situations: -
 - being close to one person in a room;
 - being with people in crowded places such as travelling in vehicles used by the public, railways, ships, planes; hospitals/health centres used by the public; offices, schools, markets, shopping centres, and nursing homes;
 - Having any suspected symptoms of COVID-19 such as illness, cough, sneezing, stuffy nose, sore throat, physical discomfort, body pain, sudden loss of smell and taste.

*Ministry of Health
25-7-2022*

I would seriously urge the entire nation to join hands with the Tatmadaw for the successful realization of democracy

OUR Three Main National Causes – non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty – is the most important task of the democratization process. As the task of safeguarding Our Three Main National Causes is the main duty of the Tatmadaw, all the sectors of the State duty have already been transferred to the Tatmadaw. So, I would seriously urge the entire nation to join hands with the Tatmadaw for the successful realization of democracy, while adhering to Our Three Main National Causes.

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

Education and health greatly support the development of the country; I will continue developing the country as the saying “Moving Forward”, Senior General stresses

FROM PAGE-1

The roadmap and the objectives are to implement a multiparty democratic system and to build a Union based on democracy and federalism.

There is the right to dissent in a democratic system. In every democratic country, it will naturally be found that parties are operating with different political ideas, and factions within one party but with different opinions.

When Myanmar gained independence in 1948, the parliamentary democracy system was used, and only the Pha-Sa-Pa-La party led the country and the other parties were only small parties. Later, there were differences of opinion within the Pha-Sa-Pa-La, and it was found that factions within the party were divided due to the power structures of individuals or factions, and political immaturity.

In 1962, under the revolutionary council government, the central leadership system was implemented. The Socialist Party was established and implemented under the one-party system. There were different opinions on the socialist system in the party. Since there was only one party without the right to form other parties, there were no political exits and factional divisions occurred within the party.

In 1988, the Tatmadaw had to assume responsibility for the State, and although it was not a political party, efforts were made to walk on the path of democracy. The formation of parties was allowed and put the country on the path of multiparty democracy. As a multiparty democratic system, there were advantages as well as weak-

The political goal is to walk with a multiparty democratic system and to build a Union that combines a democratic administrative system and a federal administrative system. Since these points have been accepted, we can continue to discuss to achieve peace. The national goal is the prosperity of the country and the abundance of food for the people.

nesses. As long as the existing law was not violated, there were no restrictions but freedom.

As the results of the 2020 multiparty democratic general election resulted in political instability, the Tatmadaw had to take responsibility under the Constitution. They are doing the best they can under the Constitution, and they have given outlets regarding politics. Apart from measures to prevent national unrest, party conferences, meetings and inter-party meetings are allowed as democratic political outlets.

Democracy means dialogue, negotiation and consensus. This can be said to be a “democratic culture”. If these democratic political cultures are destroyed, the stability of the country will be destroyed. It has been found that such political situations have arisen due to improper use of political outlets.

The government has already increased the salaries and benefits of the government employees. Civil servants are free from party politics and are to carry out the duty of the country, not to carry out politics. If they want to do politics, they need to do it on the political path. Regarding politics, as a citizen, a citizen has the free-

dom to act as long as he does not violate specific provisions prohibited by the existing law.

International Relations

Regarding international relations, there are attempts to marginalize us in the international community when we are carrying out our responsibilities. In 2011, while walking on the path of multiparty democracy, some big countries used money and resources to keep those who can do what they want on the political stage. When the people they wanted were no longer on the political stage, the aid stopped for various reasons. We faced discrimination against ourselves by turning a blind eye to the consti-

tutional law that was enacted by 92.48 per cent of the people who had the right to vote. Similarly, in international relations, they are acting blindly towards our country’s real existence.

The Need for Peace

If the government provides for the living and food of the ethnic groups in the areas of armed conflict, it will be able to help in one way. Things desired by the ethnic armed organizations must be fulfilled within the framework of the law.

Therefore, at the time of the peace talks, we clearly stated our national goals and political goals and were able to have positive discussions. The political goal is to walk with a multiparty democratic system and to build a union that combines a democratic administrative system and a federal administrative system. Since these points have been accepted, we can continue to discuss to achieve peace.

I have said that the national goal is the prosperity of the country and the abundance of food for the people. We have given political outlets to our political goal and it is necessary to make efforts to achieve peace

by using these political outlets. Looking at the elections, the elections were not fully conducted in all townships. Political results must be improved. Therefore, the government must make efforts to strengthen the basis of the fundamentals we are working on.

We reviewed the country’s rule of law, peace and stability within the first six months after assuming our duties on 1 February 2022.

In terms of law and order, except for some regions, the rest of the regions have improved a lot since 2021. Peace and stability have also been achieved. Only when we can build cooperation with mutual trust will we get a solid foundation.

Economic Development

We can see that our country’s economy has declined since 2018 by looking at statistics. Under the previous government, domestic products were not encouraged and imports were prioritized. Our government is working to make the country’s economy recover.

The strength of the country is only within the country. Therefore, it is necessary to mainly encourage the domestic economy. The local economy was encouraged during the previous government, which was the Lanzin Party era. During the Tatmadaw government, due to financial difficulties, the market economy system was built by importing first. At this time, in order to develop the domestic economy, we must improve local production. We must encourage the improvement of the quality of local products and the strengthening of manufacturing.

If we want a good education, the government cannot emphasize education only. We must promote the socio-economy of the people. If not, we are running the circles. Therefore, education reforms do not concern with the Education Ministry alone, but for all.

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Education and health greatly support the development of the country; I will continue developing the country as the saying "Moving Forward", Senior General stresses

FROM PAGE-3

He added that the government promised K400 billion for the COVID-hit economy. It should promote Quick Win agriculture and livestock breeding. Firstly, the agriculture and livestock breeding sectors should be carried out successfully and the manufacturing factories and workshops should be the secondly prioritized sectors. It should prioritize the manufacturing sector and it will bring benefits to the people as the agriculture and livestock breeding-based manufacturing enterprises are private ones. If these sectors gain achievements, the economy based on the manufacturing sector will be firm more. Therefore, it should support SMEs.

Export and import

Regarding the export and import sectors, the government and private earned over eight billion from exports via border camps and the government's export volume is higher than the private sector. Therefore,

it still needs to support SMEs. It cannot rely only on export and there should be Non-Trade.

There is also foreign currency usage by the ministry concerned and the public. Therefore, it cannot rely only on trade. The ministries also should try hard to earn foreign incomes to develop the economy of the country.

Education

In his speech, the Senior General said, "Regarding education, the government reopened all the schools on 2 June including the universities and normal courses. These are the basic priorities. We expected there would be 9.5 million students at the basic education level. It is a round figure. We estimate as a Figure. When we compare the numbers of students in the 2019-2020 academic year and population growth, we estimate that there would be 9.5 million in the 2022-2023 academic year. The digits might be higher than that number or might be lower. However, the

Round Figure shows 9.5 million. Over 7.2 million students attend the school. They all are attending peacefully. There are also unscrupulous persons in certain places. However, we are running the education sector as usual. Improving the education sector plays a key role in a country. If education is not improved, no matter what the country does, there can be no progress. According to our analysis, the education level is low. It is such a sad case. The education level of nearly half or over half of the country's population is under the middle school level. Therefore, if education is not improved, the businesses that run based on education and skills will never be modern ones. Israel boasts of proper agriculture, livestock breeding and technologies as they have many experts. They have a fine economy and income. As they have a proper income, they can have a decent meal, so they have a good immune system. Based on these facts, they systematically do

exercises and their IQ, which is better than our normally developing country. I say it frankly and I just admit it. If we can eat good food to achieve a better immune system, it will make minds smart and intelligent. If a person is smart, it is quite easy to learn. But there is another weakness. If one cannot have good learning opportunities at school, is not interested, and has to work as their parents have no fine business, the education level of that child will end at middle school level as he or she also cannot follow the lessons and has to work. Therefore, we should conduct sector-wise activities. If we want a good education, the government cannot emphasize education only. We must promote the socio-economy of the people. If not, we are running the circles. Therefore, education reforms do not concern with the Education Ministry alone, but for all."

COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities

ities

He added that the country controls the disease to a certain extent. However, the infection rates are still rising in the neighbours and regional countries. The country testes more positive cases on the returnees. Although the COVID-19 rules are eased, the people should not stay recklessly as the infection rate can be high again. The country received 80million COVID-19 vaccines and administered about 72 million.

The Senior General also underscored the need to conduct public awareness programmes for COVID-19 vaccination processes, research by the Ministry of Health, the vital role of education and health for the development of the country, and pledged to make efforts for the country to keep "Moving Forward".

Then, the Union Ministers reported on the matters of respective sectors and the Senior General gave proper instructions.—MNA

MoI holds coordination meeting on State-owned cinemas virtually

THE coordination meeting on State-owned cinemas that have been sold to the private sector was held virtually between Ministry of Information Deputy Minister U Ye Tint and cabinet ministers of states and regions at the meeting hall of the Film Promotion Division in the Information and Public Relations Department, which was located on the Kokkine Avenue Road of Bahan Township in Yangon Region at 10 am on 29 July.

Throughout the meeting, the deputy minister exhorted the responsible personnel to urge business owners who were not implementing the construction plan of theatres and running cinema businesses as per the contract of the State-



owned cinema selling process. Some business owners failed to do so due to their economic

difficulties but some are using cinema sites for other business purposes. The deputy minister

also called for action to be taken against cinema holders who were not following the rules and

regulations of the contract.

Afterwards, regional cabinet ministers discussed matters regarding the condition of operating cinemas on the ground and the deputy minister added necessary things before giving concluding remarks.

In the afternoon, the deputy minister inspected the Aung San Printing Factory, Sarpay Beikman Printing Factory and GTC Printing Factory of the Printing and Publishing Department in Insein Township and instructed officials and staff to work together in unity, exercise close supervision of the printing process, give special consideration to factory safety and ensuring no loss and damage of the equipment and raw materials. — MNA

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CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 454237515

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355

marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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

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Myanmar imports over 5,600 tonnes of fertilizer in July's first week

OVER 5,600 tonnes of fertilizer worth US\$3.734 million were imported to Myanmar in the first week of July.

From 2 to 8 July 2022, over 3,180 tonnes of fertilizer worth US\$2.219 million were imported through the sea route and over 2,500 tonnes of fertilizer worth US\$1.515 million via land borders.

By the sea, over 1,300 tonnes were from China, 600 tonnes from Thailand, and 120 tonnes from Germany. By the border crossings, over 1,300 tonnes from Thailand, over 700 tonnes from India, and over 500 tonnes from China. — TWA/GNLM



Power rotation system back in Yangon



Workers repair electric transformers. PHOTO: YESC

THE Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation announced that there will be power cuts in some townships of the Yangon Region and the power will be distributed under the rotation system as there are some problems with the National Power Grid.

Starting 9 am on 29 July, the divided Groups A and B will have access to power as before, the Yankin EPC posted on its Facebook page.

At about 5 pm on 28 July,

a fault occurred in the 230 kV Mansan-Shwesayan power line and it was found that Tower No 613 swayed during the timely inspection, the statement said.

For such fault in the 230 kV power line, the Shweli power plant reduced about 300 MW of power production. Therefore, it needs to conduct emergency load consumption reduction in Yangon to ensure a stable power system during the low power production period and so there

will be temporary power blackouts in some townships or areas and it will also be careful not to occur blackouts in major places, the YESC announced.

Currently, the people face power cuts in some townships, according to the residents.

The YESC divided into two groups to distribute power in Yangon and some townships also faced temporary power cuts while felling the trees. — TWA/GNLM

Local Shan potato prices lower than Chinese ones

ON 28 July, the Chinese potato prices were higher than the locally-produced Shan potato in the Yangon market, according to onion and potato merchant Ko Aung Tun from Nyaung Pin Lay Zay.

The prices of Chinese potatoes are high for the high exchange rate at the border. In the market, the new Shan potato (Aungban) is priced at K1,000 per viss, K1,200 per viss of A1, K1,300 per viss of OK, and K1,400 per viss of S1 while the Chinese potato price is K1,850 per viss.

The new Shan potato quality is lower than normal and fetches low prices. The colour is reddish brown instead of yellow. The sizes are small despite S2. The Bangla potato demand is low in the market and does not enter the market currently. The large size is priced at K1,800 per viss and it is hard to buy in the market.

In early 2022, the large size Shan potato was priced at K2,200 per viss while K1,650 per viss of Chinese potato. In early April, the price was



Potatoes are seen at the Bayintnaung market.

K1,900 per viss and the Chinese potato prices reached K1,700 per viss. The prices including the production rate are high this year.

Loikaw potato usually enters the Yangon market before the end of the year and the Tatkon potato enters before the Thingyan period. The Sinyugyun potato enters for three months between the early period of year and Thingyan. The Shan potato-Aungban and

Heho potatoes enter the Yangon market most.

The Chinese potatoes enter the market packaging in a white bag that can accommodate 13 visses and a yellow bag that can hold 16 visses. The yellow bag contains the S1 size while the S1 and OK sizes are in the white bag.

The onion prices are open at about 7 am at Bayintnaung and the potato prices are at 10 am. — TWA/GNLM

MAI to resume Yangon-Phnom Penh-Yangon flights on 10 August

MYANMAR Airways International (MAI) has announced that Yangon-Phnom Penh-Yangon flights will be resumed beginning on 10 August.

The flight will depart from Yangon at 7 am on 10, 20 and 30 August and arrive in Phnom Penh at 9:25 am local standard time. Similarly, the flight will depart from Phnom Penh at 10:25 am local standard time and will arrive in Yangon at 11:55 am. The flight ticket will be charged US\$230.

International flights such as Mandalay-Bangkok-Mandalay, Yangon-Tokyo-Yangon, Yangon-Bangkok-Yangon, Yangon-Singapore-Yangon, Yangon-New Delhi-Yangon and Yangon-Kuala Lumpur-Yangon routes are run by Myanmar Airways International (MAI).

From Yangon to 18 cities across Myanmar, flight routes are operated weekly by a collaboration between Myanmar Airways International (MAI) and Air KBZ. — TWA/GNLM



MAI aircraft.

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, fuel, electronics, wooden statues and Buddha images, consumer goods, auto parts, industrial materials and vehicles confiscated

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

Under the instructions of the Chairman of the Anti-Illicit Trade Task Force, an on-duty team at the Yepu permanent checkpoint in Shan State conducted inspections on 26 July.

Officials captured K89,875,000 worth of fertilizers which are mixed with restricted chemical — Ammonium Nitrate — and liquid fertilizer bags that did not declare in the Import Declaration (ID) from a Nissan Diesel 22-wheel truck (approximately K43 million). The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Similarly, the Yangon International Airport Warehouse seized K13 million worth of medical equipment without an Import licence on 26 July; the Asia World container checkpoint captured K2.2 million worth of furniture accessories without declaration in the Import Declaration (ID) on 27 July and the Myanmar Industrial Container Terminal



Confiscated illegal commodities.



Seized illegal items at Myanmar Industrial Port.

checkpoint seized K1.1 million worth of wooden statues and two Buddha images without declaration in the Export Declaration (ED) and an approved letter of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum on 28 July. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

In addition, on 27 July, an on-duty team made inspections at the Mayanchaung Permanent Checkpoint and confiscated consumer goods worth K5,694,750 that exceeded the Import Declaration (ID) from a Nissan Diesel truck (approximately K18 mil-

lion) heading from Myawady to Yangon. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

A team led by Myanmar Police Force captured 22,000 gallons of illegal fuel worth K22 billion on the road in Wuntho Township on 26 and 28 July. The action was taken under the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law.

On 28 July, the 16-mile Kyaukchaw checkpoint confiscated K31,225,000 worth of industrial materials and auto parts that did not declare in the Import Declaration (ID) from a Foton Tractor Head truck (approximately K38 million). The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Afterwards, a total of 14,0462 tonnes of illegal teak and hardwood worth K5,519,620 in the Bago and Toungoo districts were captured on 29 July. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, 23 arrests (approximately K473,970,370) were made on four consecutive days from 26 to 29 July, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee.— MNA

Drugs impounded in Tachilek township

THE combined team consisting of the Anti-Drug Police Force searched four gunny sacks, which are covered with a rain sheet near the Kyaukgu village, Maihe village-tract in Tachilek township.

They found one million stimulant tablets from gunny sacks. Similarly, the Anti-Drug Special Task Force searched a motorbike driven by Sai Khan

Shal (aka) De Dee accompanied by Ma Ngu Shwe Sin and Win Naing in Sansai B ward, Tachilek township at 10 pm yesterday.

They nabbed 0.909 kilogramme of happy water from them. The criminals are prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, the Myanmar Police Force stated.— MNA



Three arrestees are pictured together with seized stimulant pills and a motorbike.

K440 mln worth of illegal restricted chemicals captured in Muse, Pyigyidagun townships



Both photos show two arrestees along with seized illegal and restricted chemicals and a vehicle.

K440 million worth of restricted chemicals and illegal chemicals were captured in Muse and Pyigyidagun townships, Myanmar Police Force stated.

A combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force search a warehouse in Muse township at 9:30 am on 25 July, according to information

and seized a total of 14.5 tonnes of illegal chemicals — Theophylline M-hydrate — and Toyota Landcruiser car with warehouse in-charge Kyi Zin Htun.

According to the investigation, Police examined a warehouse in Pyigyidagun township of Mandalay Region and confiscated two tonnes of illegal Cop-

per Sulfate and three tonnes of restricted chemicals — Ammonium Nitrate — with warehouse manager Wai Lin (aka) Wai Lin Htun.

The suspects are charged under the law and the Police are carrying out investigations to arrest the rest, it is learnt.— MNA

LOCAL BUSINESS

China's robust demand elevates chaste tree berry price

CHASTE tree berry, naturally grown in central Myanmar, has brisk sales in the Mandalay market on the back of strong demand from China. Price is higher than last year as well, traders said.

The chaste tree berry is abundantly flowing into the Mandalay market. It fetched only K3,000 per viss in the year-ago period. China's demand pushes up the price to K18,000 per viss, said U Soe Win Myint, an owner of Soe Win Myint depot.

"Chaste tree is naturally grown in the central Myanmar regions. It is commonly found along Ayeyawady and Chindwin riverbanks in tropical regions. They grow best in sandy soil. It is utilized in pharmaceutical and cosmetic manufacturing. It is a

lucrative herb. Locals are doing a roaring business this year. There is an old saying that an ignorant person walks over a pot of gold. Our country is rich in resources," he said.

The chaste tree (*Vitex agnus-castus*) produces berries in July and August. The chaste tree berry was exported to the China market on a trial run ten years ago. Thereafter, it grasped a market share in China. Large quantities of chaste tree berry from Minbu, Salin, Sagu, Yenangyaung, Chauk, Popa, Kyaukpadaung, Myittha, and Meiktila areas are entering the Mandalay market. The Chaste tree berry market is bustling. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/GNLM



Large quantities of chaste tree berry from Minbu, Salin, Sagu, Yenangyaung, Chauk, Popa, Kyaukpadaung, Myittha, and Meiktila areas are entering the Mandalay market. The Chaste tree berry market is bustling.

Border exports to China plummet as dollar payment on Agri products instructed



Myanmar delivers beans and pulses, rubber, food commodities, fisheries products and mango to China with about 40 trucks.

TRANSACTIONS on agricultural products are instructed to be made in US dollars as an official settlement currency at the border. Consequently, exports to China through the Muse border post dropped, as traders engaged in the Muse border post stated.

Earlier, Myanmar exported around 70 truckloads of goods per day to China through the Kyinsankyawt checkpoint in the Muse trade zone. At present, only 40 trucks carrying export items are seen in the border market.

"The directive of the US dollar as official settlement currency adversely affected exports. The supply of corn and pulses is not seen. The number of cargo trucks is down by 20-30 for now," said U Min Thein, vice-chair of the Muse Rice Wholesale Depot.

On 14 December 2021, the Central Bank of Myanmar released a notification that Yuan/Kyat cross-currency settlement in the bilateral transaction was officially allowed in the border areas between Myanmar and China to boost the

bilateral cross-border trade, facilitate the trading and bilateral transaction, increase the use of domestic currency as per the objectives of the ASEAN Financial Integration.

After export earnings on agricultural products were earlier set to be paid in dollars instead of Yuan, the official exchange rate against the US dollar was set at K1,850.

At present, the dollar was valued at over K2,500 in the informal FX market, indicating a large gap in the exchange rate. Consequently, it dealt a blow to the agricultural products and exports drastically fell, traders said.

Nonetheless, Myanmar daily conveys approximately 10,000 bags of rice and broken rice to China through the Muse border as rice and broken rice exports via the Muse border trade post are excluded from this directive at present and Yuan payment is available as before.

Myanmar delivers other beans and pulses, rubber, food commodities, fisheries products and mango to China with about 40 trucks, while electrical appliances, industrial goods, building materials, cement and pharmaceuticals are brought back to the country from China. — NN/GNLM

Myanmar's foreign trade soars to \$10.45 bln as of 22 July

MYANMAR'S external trade between 1 April and 22 July of the 2022-2023 Financial Year (FY) tremendously rose to US\$10.45 billion, reflecting a sharp increase of \$2.066 billion as against the year-ago period, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The figures surged from \$8.386 billion in the corresponding period last year.

Myanmar's export was worth over \$5.203 billion whereas, the country's import was valued at \$5.25 billion over the past two months.

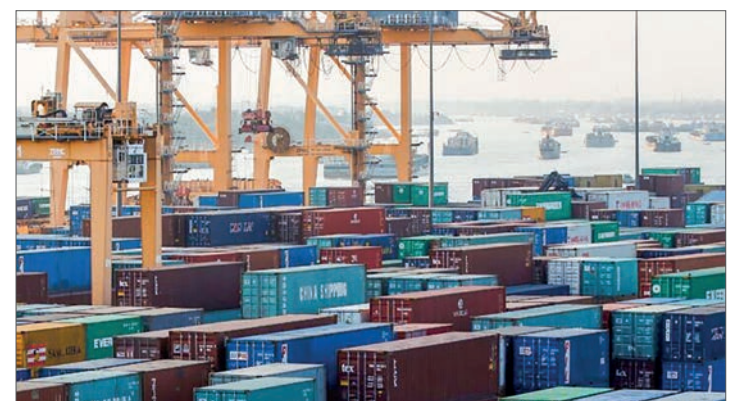
The border trade dropped owing to the red tape and China's strict virus rules, with a decrease of \$191.45 million as against the year-ago period. However, the maritime trade registered a significant rise

of \$2.257 billion in nearly four months.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, animal products, minerals, forest products, and finished industrial goods, while it imports capital goods, raw industrial materials, and consumer goods.

The country's export sector relies more on the agricultural and manufacturing sectors. The Ministry of Commerce is focusing on reducing the trade deficit, export promotion, import substitution and market diversification.

The external trade stood at \$15.5 billion in the past mini-budget 2021-2022 (October-March) period and \$29.58 billion in the 2020-2021FY as per the Commerce Ministry's statistics. — KK/GNLM



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OPINION

Help law enforcement forces combat trafficking in persons

RELEVANT authorities and law enforcement forces are striving to the prevention of the cases related to trafficking in persons in Myanmar while mentally and physically providing necessary assistance to victims of human trafficking.

The government has formed anti-human trafficking bodies as well as has enacted the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law. Likewise, the Myanmar Police Force under the Ministry of Home Affairs is formed with many branches and departments including the Anti-human Trafficking Police Force.

In order to eliminate the cases of trafficking in persons and give a helping hand to the victims, the government is striving for conducting surveillance and monitoring the human traffickers along their routes of trafficking the males and females of Myanmar outside

the country. In this regard, the authorities and members of the Anti-human Trafficking Police Force in cooperation with relevant organizations and dutiful citizens expose a large number of human trafficking cases on a yearly basis.

Even though they could not expose all the cases of trafficking persons, they could help most of the victims escape from lives of victims. Moreover, relevant ministries assist in the rehabilitation of those human trafficked victims with necessary aid. As such, those victims could safely rebuild their brighter lives.

The United Nations on Drugs and Crime marks World Day against Trafficking in Persons on 30 July every year as part of raising the awareness of global peoples in combating the trafficking in persons. It is because technology allows these criminals to operate internationally across jurisdictions and evade detection with greater ease.

Traffickers use social media to identify, groom and recruit victims, including children, e-mails and messaging services are used for the moral coercion of the victims, and online platforms allow traffickers to widely advertise services provided by victims, including child photographic material.

Future success in eradicating human trafficking will depend on how law enforcement, the criminal justice systems and others can leverage it. In this regard, prevention and awareness-raising activities on the safe use of the internet and social media could help mitigate the risk of people falling victim to trafficking online.

Everybody wishes to live peacefully. Human traffickers are a common enemy of all people. Hence, people need to contribute to law enforcement bodies, especially the body to combat trafficking persons for ensuring the safety life of people and their children. Indeed, legal action is waiting for handing down severe punishment to human traffickers without fail.

Everybody wishes to live peacefully. Human traffickers are a common enemy of all people. Hence, people need to contribute to law enforcement bodies, especially the body to combat trafficking persons for ensuring the safety life of people and their children. Indeed, legal action is waiting for handing down severe punishment to human traffickers without fail.

Culture isn't a critical factor to make an "Uninvaded Country": Ultimately, the Leader's Sense Decides Whether to Avoid or Start War

By Suzuka YOSHIDA

IWROTE last time that Japan is aiming for "a country that does not attack other countries and is not attacked." In order to create a country that is not attacked, it is effective not only to have military power but also to add soft power. The theory is said that it is important that visible things make many people in the world realize "If I attack this country, I will lose something important. I should not attack." Something that may possibly discourage you from attacking is the so-called culture.

The concept of confronting coercion

Military power causes physical damage to other countries and discourages the willingness to counter it. It then seeks to bring about unilateral border changes and favour negotiations. International law was created to prevent the use of such force, and it seemed to have become widespread in the 21st century. I was thinking the use of coercion to violate international law would no longer appear in the world, but as usual, some countries have implemented it.

Looking at these recent cases, the background of the nation

that carries out full use of coercive force is that it has some contempt for the target nation, such as "No problem to attack such a worthless nation". In other words, it does not find cultural value.

What kind of culture would be enough not to motivate military power? The following view is my personal one.

Cultural levelling

Cultural values reside in academic works, architecture, townscape, literature, art, food, clothing, music and dance entertainment, and the people who create them. And while establishing a system to develop and protect such cultural values, it forms a national identity as well. In other words, national identity and culture develop together.

However, culture has no ownership and comes in and out of other countries. It is imitated at the destination and grows a new culture. In this way, there are as many cultures as there are ethnic groups that look similar but have different minds. In modern times, buildings have adopted similar formats in every country, the level of technology has been levelled,



Kench Oji Temple was built in Chinese (Southern Song Dynasty in the 12th-13th century) style and preserved by not only temple monks but also the local people for about 800 years even after it was destroyed by fire. No similar temple was left in China who created this architecture.

and commodities have been produced and used all over the world. New fashion becomes popular all over the world at the same time. As for food, the same fast food is eaten everywhere. Even if it is a traditional Chinese food, it has been prevailed and arranged in all countries, and there is also a "fake Chinese food" that has reached a level that is more delicious than

the original one.

National identity is the source of culture

So, what distinguishes your country from other countries? I think one is the human heart that gives birth to culture, that is, the national identity.

Let me give you an example. In Kamakura and Kyoto in Japan,

there are several temples built in the architectural style that was introduced from China (Southern Song Dynasty in the 12th-13th century). This is because the founder wanted to incorporate the advanced construction techniques of that time. The Japanese people made the imported culture of visible style and put their national identity in it. It has been nearly

900 years since it was built and has taken root as a Japanese identity without being affected by political changes.

However, few advanced buildings remain in China today. This is because China has destroyed cultural properties every time of political changes and revolutions. Chinese painters who visited Japan for sightseeing were surprised when they came to Japan. They saw a fantasy building in Japan that they had copied as a mere motif when learning about painting when they visited for sightseeing. They were surprised and said, "That is really the architecture that used to exist!" "And it exists in Japan". They also said, "The Japanese government has guided and protected it. Chinese Government must also maintain its culture."

On the contrary, all the Japanese including me who saw this interview program on TV were surprised. Do Chinese people not know their own culture and history? Do they move to protect cultural properties only after being ordered by the state?

Culture is not a state-led one, but one that private citizens strive to protect firstly. Sometime government might just encourage the policy. If Chinese painters knew how resilient the Japanese mind

and the national identity were, they would have been able to feel the true value of Japan.

If the leader has a sense of culture, it will be a deterrent to war

Japan is now the best destination for tourists in the world.

Will the position as the number one tourist destination deter war? Probably NO. No matter how unique the culture is, no matter how diverse the townscape is, if A country wants to annex B country, A country will attack B. For barbaric leaders, a fascinating culture rather gives them the pleasure of

destroying. In other words, Culture looks like a predatory item for those who do not have a sense of feeling the value of Culture. And it can be perceived as a valuable factor by those who have a sense of it.

Leaders who respect the culture of their enemy hesitate to start a war. On the other hand, leaders who think "that country is a part of my country" or "my culture is better than another one" tend to be less able to receive the needed information to make decisions. In the end, the qualities of the leader determine whether the war is switched on or off.



The birthplace of Sumo is unknown but can be seen in Mongolia and Korea as well. Sumo incorporated Japanese concepts into their rule and styles, and it turned into a national sport of Japan. The Sumo wrestler in the above photo is the highest-ranking Yokozuna from Mongolia.

Monkeypox symptoms, diagnosis, treatments and vaccines

THE World Health Organization declared monkeypox a global health emergency at the weekend, as calls grow for swift action to stop the spread of the virus.

More than 16,000 confirmed cases have been recorded in 75 countries so far this year, the WHO said on Monday.

Here is an overview of the symptoms, diagnosis, treatments and vaccines.

Symptoms

The first symptoms can include a fever, headaches, sharp muscle pains, fatigue, a rash, as

well as swollen and painful lymph nodes.

Around one to three days after the appearance of a fever, a rash can turn into painful, fluid-filled skin lesions. After a few days or weeks, the lesions or sores turn into scabs, before falling off.

Monkeypox has long been endemic in Central and Western Africa. In countries elsewhere that have recorded cases since May, the lesions have been more common around the genitals and anus, as well as on the mouth.

Symptoms have varied between patients, however. They usually last between two to four

weeks, and the virus is contagious until the rash has fully healed.

Diagnosis

Most of the recent global cases have been in men who have sex with men and have recently had sex with a new partner, according to the WHO.

A study published in the New England Journal of Medicine last week found that 98 per cent of infected people were gay or bisexual men, and 95 per cent of cases were transmitted through sexual activity. Diagnosing the virus can be difficult due to its inconsistent symptoms, which can resemble

sexually transmitted infections, several health authorities have warned.

Europe has been the epicentre of the outbreak, with many cases among younger men living in cities, according to the WHO.

Confirming a case of monkeypox may require a PCR test, or a sample or biopsy of a skin lesion.

Those with potential cases must isolate while waiting for test results. Once the virus is confirmed, isolation is recommended for three weeks.

Monkeypox has been detected in semen, but is not considered a sexually transmitted disease,

instead spreading through close physical contact. The European Centre for Disease Prevention (ECDC) recommends using a condom for 12 weeks after recovery.

Treatment

The disease usually heals by itself after two to three weeks, sometimes taking a month.

In many cases, the only treatment needed is to address the symptoms, such as clearing up a fever or soothing the itching.

Sometimes the lesions can become extremely painful, however, requiring serious painkillers or even hospital treatment.

The most severe cases have been seen in children, pregnant women and people with compromised immune systems.

No deaths have been reported so far in Europe or the United States. People with monkeypox are advised not to scratch the lesions, as this could spread the virus or leave a scar, and to cover them to avoid the temptation.

The European Medicines Agency has approved a smallpox medication, Tecovirimat, for monkeypox treatment.

Vaccines

A smallpox vaccine from Dan-

ish drug maker Bavarian Nordic, marketed under the name Jynneos in the United States and Imvanex in Europe, has also been found to protect against monkeypox.

The European Commission approved its use for monkeypox on Monday.

It can also have a "significant protective effect" if administered within four days of exposure to a monkeypox case, according to the ECDC.

Countries such as Britain, Canada, France and the United States have started offering vaccination to those most at risk of the virus.

The vaccine is given in two doses, at least 28 days apart. But for people vaccinated against smallpox as children, one dose is enough. For people with compromised immune systems, a third dose is recommended.

As the vaccines do not provide immediate or total protection, health authorities advise caution after receiving an injection.

The United States also has many doses of the older generation ACAM2000 smallpox vaccine, but it is not recommended for everyone because of significant side effects.

SOURCE: AFP

ENVIRON WORLD

Eight dead in 'devastating' Kentucky flooding



Homes submerged under flood waters from the North Fork of the Kentucky River are seen from a drone in Jackson, Kentucky. **PHOTO: AFP**

FLASH flooding caused by torrential rains has killed at least eight people in eastern Kentucky and left some residents stranded on rooftops and in trees, the governor of the south-central US state said Thursday.

The world has been hit by extreme weather events in recent months, incidents that scientists say are an unmistakable sign of climate change.

"This is going to be the worst flooding in recent memory -- devastating and deadly," Governor Andy Beshear told local NBC

affiliate WLEX in an interview.

"We're going to end up with double-digit deaths. Right now, I believe we can confirm at least eight, but that number is increasing, it seems, by the hour."

The victims include an 81-year-old woman in Perry County.

Beshear said that responders have rescued "between 20 and 30" people by air. Earlier, he described people standing on rooftops or climbing up trees to escape the floodwaters while waiting for rescue.

Many roads resembled rivers, mangled cars littered the landscape and muddy brown floodwaters lapped against the rooftops of low-lying houses in the state's Appalachian region.

Some areas reported receiving more than eight inches (20 centimetres) of rain in a 24-hour period.

The North Fork of the Kentucky River at Whitesburg, usually one to two feet deep at this time of year, rose to a staggering 20 feet, well above its previous record of 14.7 feet.—AFP

S.Africa ranger murder spotlights risk in anti-poaching war

A South African park ranger was gunned down this week in a killing that underscored the

dangers faced by conservationists fighting wildlife poaching in the country, the government said

on Thursday.

Anton Mzimba, 42, head ranger at the privately run Timbavati game reserve on the boundaries of the Kruger National Park in northeastern South Africa, was shot dead outside his home on Tuesday, according to the environmental ministry.

In a statement, the game reserve said it had lost a "rhino warrior, a wildlife guardian... and a true legend".

While circumstances surrounding the killing are still unclear, UK-based conservation group Helping Rhinos said Mzimba had recently received "death threats".

South Africa is home to nearly 80 per cent of the world's rhinos.—AFP



South Africa is home to nearly 80 per cent of the world's rhinos. A helicopter takes off from as the carcass of a poached and mutilated white rhino is seen laying on the banks of a river at Kruger National Park during a forensic investigation on 12 September 2014. **PHOTO: MARCO LONGARI/AFP/FILE**

Deadly elephant virus stalks Zurich zoo

A deadly virus has swept through Zurich's zoo, killing three Asian elephants in a month and leaving experts stumped as to how to stop its spread.

The zoo overlooking Switzerland's largest city now has only five of the majestic creatures roaming its 11,000-square-metre (118,400-square-foot) elephant enclosure.

Two-year-old bull Umesh was the first to fall victim to the Elephant endotheliotropic herpesvirus (EEHV) at the end of June, followed just days later by his eight-year-old sister Omysha.

Last Saturday, Ruwani, a five-year-old female from a second matriarchal herd also died.

They succumbed at lightning speed to the herpesvirus, which leaves young Asian elephants with internal bleeding and organ failure.

In captivity, this virus is "the main cause of death for

elephants between two and eight years", zoo curator Pascal Marty told AFP.

The virus has also been known to kill elephants in the wild, he said, but "it's a bit harder to detect".

Last goodbye

The herpesvirus lies latent in nearly all elephants, both in the wild and in captivity, but can in some cases suddenly become deadly, killing its victims in a matter of days.

"We still don't know why it happens and when it happens," Marty said.

The zoo's five remaining Asian elephants -- all adults -- were permitted to spend a few hours gathered around the remains of their young family members and companions.

Marty said it was important to give the animals "enough time (to) say farewell".

"It's very hard to say whether or not they are sad, because sadness is something human," he said.—AFP



The herpesvirus leaves young Asian elephants with internal bleeding and organ failure. **PHOTO: AFP**

Greek national park fire exposes policy flaws: WWF

A week-long fire ravaging one of Greece's top parks has starkly exposed flaws in the country's environmental management, the local branch of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) said Thursday.

"The fire shows a series of flaws in (Greece's) fire prevention system," Panagiota Marangou, head of environmental protection programmes at WWF Greece, told reporters.

The fire at Dadia National Park in northeastern Greece, which broke out last Thursday, is believed to have burned through 3,400 hectares (8,400 acres) of pine and oak forest, WWF said. Dadia is one of the most important protected areas in Europe, offers ideal habitat for rare birds and is home to the only breeding population of black vultures in the Balkans.—AFP

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

COVID-19 SITUATION UPDATE WORLDWIDE

AstraZeneca profits fall, Covid vaccine sales slide



Catalent Biologics manufacturing facility in Anagni, Italy will serve as the launch facility for the large-scale production and supply of the University of Oxford's Covid-19 vaccine candidate, AZD1222, providing large-scale vial filling and packaging to British-Swedish multinational pharmaceutical and biopharmaceutical company AstraZeneca. **PHOTO: VINCENZO PINTO / AFP/FILE**

COVID-VACCINE maker AstraZeneca said Friday that profits fell sharply in the first half on ballooning costs linked to its takeover of US biotech firm Alexion. The pharmaceutical group added that sales of its Covid-19 vaccine Vaxzevria slumped 49

per cent in the second quarter. Net profit slumped 64 per cent to \$746 million compared with the first six months of last year, AstraZeneca said in a statement. Operating expenses jumped 33 per cent, "reflecting the addi-

tion of Alexion, and continued investment in new launches and the pipeline" of drugs, the group said.

That offset a 48-per-cent jump in revenue to more than \$22 billion.

Revenue rose strongly thanks to sales of Alexion medicines.

The group said annual revenue from Covid-19 medicines is anticipated to be broadly flat compared with 2021.

Astra said the majority of Vaxzevria revenue this year was set to come from initial contracts struck as the pandemic took hold.

It added that growth of its preventative antibody treatment Evusheld was offsetting an expected decline in Vaxzevria sales. "We have made great progress in our efforts to combat Covid-19," AstraZeneca chief executive Pascal Soriot said. —AFP

Pfizer earnings jump on strong sales of Covid-19 products

PFIZER reported a jump in second-quarter profits Thursday behind a near doubling of revenues driven by sales of its Covid-19 vaccine and therapeutic drug Paxlovid.

The drugmaker raised some of its overall financial benchmarks, but maintained 2022 sales targets for its two Covid-19 products: \$32 billion from the vaccine co-developed with German company BioNTech; and \$22 billion from Paxlovid.

The total is equal to just over half of forecasted 2022 total revenues.

In the quarter ending June 30, profits were \$9.9 billion, up 78 per cent from the year-ago period following a 47 per cent jump in revenues to \$27.7 billion. US officials last month approved emergency author-

ization to Pfizer and Moderna for Covid-19 vaccines in under-five-year-olds, the final age group awaiting immunization in most countries.

Pfizer is currently working on a Covid-19 Omicron vaccine booster candidate for the fall, assuming regulatory approval is granted, company officials said.

Pfizer and German BioNTech have also submitted data for an Omicron vaccine to the European Medicines Agency.

"Pfizer is well positioned to satisfy its current contractual obligations and potential demand within its production capacity through the end of the year," said Chief Executive Albert Bourla in a statement.

Sales for both its Covid-19 products rose during the quarter. —AFP

2022 MONKEYPOX OUTBREAK

Philippines reports first case of monkeypox

THE Philippines has detected its first case of monkeypox in a person with a history of overseas travel, officials said Friday.

The announcement comes within a week of the World Health Organization declaring the monkeypox outbreak a global health emergency.

Philippine officials did not identify the gender of the person, only saying they were 31 years old and tested positive on Thursday after an RT-PCR test.

"The case had prior travel

to countries with documented monkeypox cases," said Beverly Ho, an acting undersecretary for the Department of Health.

"Ten close contacts were recorded, of which three are from the same household. All have been advised to quarantine and are being monitored by the department."

A surge in monkeypox infections has been reported since May outside the West and Central African countries where the disease has long been endemic.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said Wednesday that more than 18,000 cases have now been reported to the organisation from 78 countries, with 70 per cent of them in Europe and 25 per cent in the Americas.

Five deaths have been reported in the outbreak since May, he said.

The Philippines sought to head off potential panic, saying monkeypox was not like Covid-19. —AFP



A private security guard (L) inspects customers queueing up as they practise social distancing outside a bank in Manila on 18 March 2020. **PHOTO: TED ALJIBE / AFP/FILE**

African countries report 2,101 monkeypox cases, 75 related deaths

THE African continent has so far reported 2,101 monkeypox cases and 75 people have died due to the virus across the continent since the beginning of 2022, the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) disclosed.

Out of the 2,101 monkeypox

cases that have been reported in Africa, some 1,818 of them are suspected cases while 283 are confirmed cases, said Ahmed Ogbwell, the acting director of Africa CDC, during a weekly briefing Thursday.

Figures from the Africa CDC showed that 70 new mon-

keypox cases have been reported by three African countries during the past week.

Ghana reported 16 confirmed cases, while Nigeria reported 16 confirmed and 37 suspected cases. Liberia reported one confirmed case. —Xinhua

Thailand detects 2nd case of monkeypox

THAILAND on Thursday confirmed its second monkeypox infection, with a man testing positive in the capital of Bangkok, a senior official said.

The 47-year-old Thai man has developed symptoms including fever, pain and rashes, and was admitted to hospital for treatment on Wednesday, said Opas Karnkawinpong, director-general of the Department of Disease Control.

Opas said the patient's condition was not serious and the 10 people having close contacts with him had been tested, while local officials were still tracing other contacts. —Xinhua

ECONOMY WORLD

US GDP data due with all eyes on possible recession

THE United States is set to release key data on economic growth Thursday and global investors are watching closely as the world's largest economy flirts with recession — while President Joe Biden walks a political tightrope.

Though Biden says he is confident the US economy is not suffering a downturn, a report showing a second consecutive quarter of negative growth — meeting one of the common definitions of a recession — would increase fears of a wider downturn.

Biden's critics would seize on such a report as proof of the veteran Democrat's mismanagement of the economy.

With crucial midterm elections just over three months away, the stakes could not be higher, and the Biden administration has spent the past week talking up the positive signs in the US economy, including job growth and solid consumer spending.



The US unemployment rate held steady at 3.6%, the same as month earlier, the labor department said. **PHOTO: ROBYN BECK/AFP**

It would be highly unusual for an economy still adding jobs at a rapid pace, and with near record-low unemployment, to fall into recession.

The consensus forecast among analysts is for an annualized 0.5 per cent increase in

the gross domestic product in the second quarter, after a 1.6 per cent decline in the first three months of the year.

But many economists say recent figures suggest GDP may have contracted in the April-June period.—AFP

Top Argentina lawmaker named economy 'super minister' as crisis drags on



On Thursday, thousands of people demonstrated in Buenos Aires for a "universal salary" worth 67,000 pesos (around \$490 at the official exchange rate), which amounts to the cost of two basic food baskets, for the country's lowest earners. **PHOTO: LUIS ROBAYO/AFP**

ARGENTINA'S government on Thursday appointed the head of the country's lower house of Congress, Sergio Massa, as the new economy "super minister", as Buenos Aires attempts

to surmount an economic crisis marked by soaring inflation.

Massa's appointment brings together three ministries under his supervision: economy, development and agriculture.

Some 37 per cent of Argentina's population of 45 million live in poverty, while inflation for the first half of the year topped 36 per cent.

Massa, a 50-year-old attorney by training who has been in politics for years, will take over his new post once he has properly stepped down from his seat in Congress, the office of President Alberto Fernandez said in a statement.

The previous economy minister Silvina Batakis, who had just returned from Washington where she held talks at the International Monetary Fund over Argentina's debt, will shift over to run the state-owned bank Banco Nacion.

Argentina, which earlier this year renegotiated repayments on a \$44-billion loan with the IMF, has committed to reducing its public deficit from three per cent in 2021 to 0.9 per cent by 2024.—AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gazprom slashes Nord Stream gas deliveries to Europe

RUSSIAN energy giant Gazprom drastically cut gas deliveries to Europe via the Nord Stream pipeline on Wednesday to about 20 per cent of its capacity, German authorities said.

The Russian state-run company had announced Monday that it would choke supply to 33 million cubic metres a day — half the amount it has been delivering since service resumed last week after 10 days of maintenance work.

EU states have accused Russia of squeezing supplies in retaliation for Western sanctions over Moscow's war in Ukraine.

Gazprom cited the halted operation of one of the last two operating turbines for the pipeline due to the "technical condition of the engine". The German economy ministry dismissed the explanation, saying there was "no technical reason for a reduction of deliveries".—AFP

Digital service, production flourish across China

A man visits a digital experience centre in a warehouse in Beijing, and a digital figure appears on the screen. The figure mimics his every movement, and it can even dance with him.

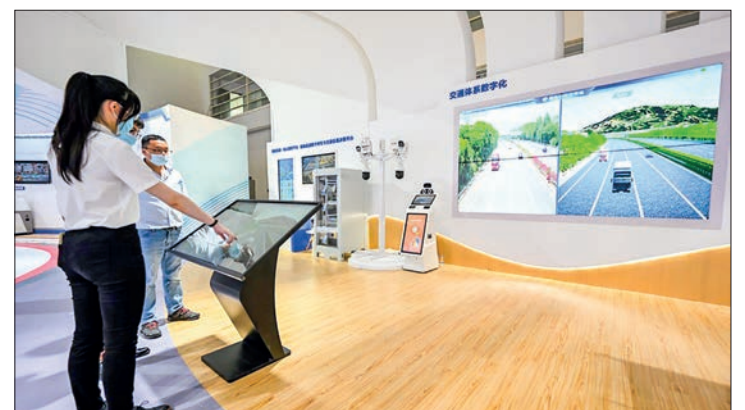
The warehouse of the metal company Shougang Group used to store iron powders, while now its approximately 8,000-square-metre exhibition area is equipped with holographic projection, artificial intelligence (AI) and virtual reality (VR) technologies.

As the 2022 Beijing Digital Economy Experience Week started this month, people are invited to a series of experiential activities, such as being immersed in the starry sky via VR or communicating with ancient figures in digital form using body language with the help of a motion capture system.

In the first quarter, Beijing's added value of the digital economy reached 387.36 billion yuan (about 57.35 billion US dollars), up 7.2 per cent year on year and occupying 41.2 per cent of the Chinese capital's gross domestic product (GDP) during the period, according to the economy and information technology bureau of Beijing.

Digital services are applied in more fields. Based on the imaging technology and AI skin detection algorithm, Meitu, an AI-driven technology company, has provided businesses and institutions related to the skin beauty industry with digital services.

Through the company's mobile app, AI can detect the users' skin problems and recommend specific skin care solutions.—Xinhua



A visitor learns about a digital simulation and decision-making system for highway networks at a special exhibition of the 5th Digital China Summit in Fuzhou, east China's Fujian Province, 22 July 2022. **PHOTO: XINHUA/ZHOU YI**

Vietnam attracts less foreign investment in 7 months

VIETNAM attracted an estimated foreign investment of more than 15.41 billion US dollars in the first seven months of this year, down 7.1 per cent year on year, according to the country's Ministry of Planning and Investment on Friday. During the period, Vietnam licenced 927 new foreign direct investment (FDI) projects with a total registered capital of over 5.72 billion dollars, down 7.9 per cent in quantity and 43.5 per cent in capital year on year. The country also saw 579 operational FDI projects raising capital by 7.24 billion dollars in total over the seven months, surging 59.3 per cent. From January to July, the disbursed FDI capital in the country totaled nearly 11.57 billion dollars, up 10.2 per cent year on year, said the ministry.—Xinhua

Chinese homegrown brands shine at int'l expo



Exhibitors make green onion pancakes at the second China International Consumer Products Expo (CICPE) in Haikou, south China's Hainan Province, 28 July 2022. Various food and beverage products from around the world are showcased during the expo. **PHOTO: XINHUA/HU ZHIXUAN**

VISITORS flocked to the Aroma Naturals booth at the second China International Consumer Products Expo (CICPE) to savor the unique fragrance of scented candles, offering a glimpse of the immense popularity of homegrown brands.

"We have made available a variety of aroma products that are appealing to domestic consumers at the expo. Previously, we mainly focused on the overseas market. Since 2020, however, we have been developing and building Chinese product lines," said Cindy Zhang, manager of the homegrown brand, Dalian Talent Gift Co., Ltd., the parent company of Aroma Naturals based in north-east China's Liaoning Province.

"We hope to tap into the domestic market through the expo," she added.—Xinhua

British Airways owner logs first profit since Covid

BRITISH Airways parent IAG said Friday it flew back into profit for the first time since the start of the Covid pandemic, boosted by a "strong recovery" in demand. IAG said in a statement that it swung back to net profit of 133 million euros (\$135 million) in the second quarter from a

loss of 981 million euros a year earlier. The group had already forecast a return to annual profit after Covid travel curbs were fully lifted.—AFP

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR SUNDAY SUPPLEMENT English Digest
For Grade-10 and Grade-11

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ကြော်ငြာများ ထည့်သွင်းလိုခြင်း ၊ သတင်းစာများအား
- လက်လီ/လက်ကား မှာယူလိုပါက
- အမှတ်(၁၅၀)၊ ငါးထပ်ကြီးဘုရားလမ်း၊ ဗဟန်းမြို့နယ်။
ဖုန်းနံပါတ် - ၀၁ ၈၆၀၄၅၂ ၊ ၀၉ ၉၈၃၉၂၄၉၉၃ သို့ ဆက်သွယ်မေးမြန်း စုံစမ်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

**THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(20/2022-2023)**

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following Service in Myanmar Kyats.

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(1)	DMP/L-048(22-23) (Retender)	Electronic Flow Measurement System Revamping, Service and Spares Parts for Yenangyaung, Magway, Kyawswa and Titut Gas Receiving and Metering Station (1) Lot အား Turnkey စနစ်ဖြင့်ဆောင်ရွက်ခြင်း	Ks

2. The open Tender forms including Description of Materials /Qty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available during office hours commencing from 29 July 2022 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No. (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

3. The interested bidder should submit the Technical Specifications and Commercial Quotation with Original Bid Bond in each separate sealed envelopes on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than 12:00 pm on 12, August 2022.

4. Tender Closing Date & Time- 12-8-2022, 12:00 pm

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph No. +95 67 - 411206

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

သတင်းစာ ဖတ်ရှုလိုပါက ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်
09 454 237 515

သတင်းစာ ဂျာနယ် စာစောင်များကို နိုင်ငံတကာစံချိန်စီ
ပုံနှိပ်လိုပါက ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်
01 860 4530

ကြော်ငြာခွင့်များနှင့် ကြော်ငြာအခွင့်အလမ်းများ ကြော်ငြာ ထည့်သွင်းလိုပါက
ထိုက်ရိုက်ဆက်သွယ် ဆွေးနွေးနိုင်ပါသည်
09 974 424 848

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V SUNNY ROUTE

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SUNNY ROUTE VOY.NO. (V.3160)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **31-7-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMIT-1** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S CHUN AN INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS CO LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V HAI DUONG 68

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V HAI DUONG 68 VOY.NO. (V.302)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **31-7-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S CHUN AN INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS CO LTD

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

EU border agency 'covered up' Greek pushbacks: reports



Migrant hold a banner during a protest against migrants pushbacks and border violence, near the Greek parliament in Athens on 20 February 2022. **PHOTO: LOUISA GOULIAMAKI / AFP**

EUROPE'S border agency Frontex routinely covered up illegal "pushbacks" of migrants by the Greek coastguard, media reports said Thursday, citing a leaked internal review.

A 129-page investigation by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) found that Frontex, under former executive director Fabrice Leggeri, was complicit in Greek efforts to force migrants and asylum-seekers crossing the Aegean Sea to return to Türkiye, German magazine Der Spiegel wrote.

The confidential report was

also seen by France's Le Monde newspaper and investigative outfit Lighthouse Reports. It follows repeated allegations by aid groups that Frontex was turning a blind eye to Greek human rights violations at sea.

"Instead of preventing the pushbacks, Leggeri and his people covered them up. They lied to the EU Parliament and concealed the fact that the agency even supported some pushbacks with European taxpayers' money," Spiegel wrote.

The OLAF review found that at least six pushback incidents

involved Greek coastguard ships that had been co-financed by Frontex, the magazine said.

In one incident in August 2020, Frontex Surveillance Aircraft filmed Greek coastguard towing a dinghy with around 30 migrants on board towards Turkish waters — when they should have been taken to Greece.

Instead of confronting Greek authorities, Frontex stopped patrolling the Aegean by air, saying the planes were needed elsewhere, Spiegel wrote.—AFP

RUSSIA - UKRAINE CONFLICT

Finns call for halt to 'unbearable' Russian tourism

BUSES of Russian tourists stream into Finland at Nuijamaa border crossing in the country's southeast, some hoping to enjoy the peaceful Finnish summer and others planning to travel further into Europe.

Finland may be seeking NATO membership following Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, but the Nordic country remains Russia's only EU neighbour to grant tourist visas to Russian citizens. "I have travelled here for 12 years," 37-year-old Boris Surovtcev from Saint Petersburg told AFP while waiting to cross. "This is a wonderful country with nature and lakes."

After the EU shut its airspace to Russian flights, Finland has also become an

important transit country for Russians looking to fly elsewhere in Europe.

But many Finns are unhappy with the situation, and the thought of Russians enjoying a Finnish summer while Ukrainians suffer under a brutal invasion has been met with indignation.

"It is not right that Russians can freely travel to Finland. It takes away the basis for the sanctions," local Kirsi Iljin said. "I think there should be some restrictions."

Restrictions proposed

As an act of solidarity with Ukraine, Finland's conservative opposition party proposed a halt to new tourist visas for Russians this week.—AFP



Many Finns are unhappy with the thought of Russians enjoying a Finnish summer while Ukrainians suffer. **PHOTO: AFP**

Russian strikes hit military base outside Kyiv: Ukraine army

UKRAINE said Thursday that Moscow's forces had struck a military base north of the capital Kyiv, in a rare admission of a successful Russian attack on Ukrainian military infrastructure.

Senior Ukraine military official Oleksiy Gromov told reporters that Russian forces had fired "six Kalibr cruise missiles on a military base in Lyutizh" at around 0200 GMT.

One building was destroyed and two were damaged, he said, in the attack on the town some 30 kilometres (19 miles) north of the capital. The missiles — one of which was shot down by Ukrainian air defences — were fired from the Crimea peninsula, which Russia annexed from Ukraine in 2014, he added. Gromov also reported attacks on Ukraine's northern region of Chernigiv, with shells fired from neighbouring Belarus, an ally of Moscow. He added there were "losses" among Ukrainian



Senior Ukraine military official Oleksiy Gromov reported attacks on Ukraine's northern region of Chernigiv, with shells fired from neighbouring Belarus, an ally of Moscow. A woman stands by a destroyed apartment building in Chernigiv on 5 April 2022, amid Russian invasion of Ukraine. **PHOTO: SERGEI SUPINSKY/AFP / FILE**

troops. In the east, Russian forces were trying to advance towards Siversk and Bakhmut — cities in the industrial Donbas region that Moscow is attempting to capture, Gromov said.

The situation there was "dif-

ficult but fully under control", he said. In the Russia-controlled region of Kherson, where Ukrainian forces are waging a counter-offensive, three villages have been recaptured over the past two weeks, Gromov added.—AFP

Berlin monuments fall dark to save energy

THE city of Berlin started switching off spotlights illuminating its historic monuments as part of a national effort to save energy in the face of Russian gas shortages.

Some 200 buildings and landmarks including Berlin's red-brick city hall, State Opera

House and Charlottenburg Palace will fall in darkness at night, officials in the German capital said this week.

"Given the war against Ukraine and the energy policy threats by Russia, it's important that we be as careful as possible with our energy," the city's chief

official for the environment, Bettina Jarasch, said on Wednesday.

Jarasch of the Green party said that included consumers and industry but also public institutions, calling the darkened monuments "the right thing to do to make a visible contribution".—AFP

Biden, Xi agree to hold face-to-face summit



US President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping held a phone call Thursday. Pictured here is their virtual meeting on 15 Nov 2021. **PHOTO: MANDEL NGAN /AFP/FILE**

PRESIDENT Joe Biden and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping agreed to schedule their first in-person summit during a sometimes tense phone call Thursday where Xi warned the United States not to “play with fire” in Chinese Taipei.

Although this was their fifth phone or video call since Biden took office a year and a half ago, the summit would be their first in-person meeting as leaders. No detail was given on the timing or location.

Biden and Xi “discussed the value of meeting face-to-face and agreed to have their

teams follow up to find a mutually agreeable time to do so”, a US official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Both sides described the call, which lasted two hours and 17 minutes, as a robust exchange on the many disputes between the world’s two biggest economic powers.

China’s state-run Xinhua agency said Xi delivered harsh words on US policy towards Chinese Taipei, a democratic island with close ties to the United States but which China considers part of its territory.—AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ecuador terrorized by Mexican-led drug trafficking explosion

ONCE a relatively peaceful neighbour of major cocaine producers Colombia and Peru, Ecuador has become a battleground for criminal gangs looking to control the drug trafficking trade, analysts and authorities say.

The violence is grim and takes multiple forms: car bombs, prison massacres and bodies hanging from bridges have become commonplace. Decapitated heads are found in the streets.

The South American country of 18 million -- which for years was merely a transit point in the narcotics trade -- has become a “sanctuary for organized crime,” former military intelligence chief Mario Pazmino told AFP.—AFP

Nearly 100 migrants found abandoned in truck in Mexico

NEARLY 100 migrants travelling in a truck were found abandoned in Mexico, officials said, a month after dozens of people died in similar conditions in the United States. The migrants were discovered Wednesday night on a highway in the eastern state of Veracruz, according to authorities, who said the vehicle was headed for the US border. “They indicated that they were abandoned by the driver,” a police report said, without specifying the migrants’ nationalities.—AFP

Venezuela, Colombia agree to reestablish embassies from 7 August

VENEZUELA and Colombia will reestablish diplomatic relations at an ambassadorial level when leftist president-elect Gustavo Petro takes office in Bogota on 7 August, representatives of the South American neighbours said Thursday.

Relations between the two countries were broken in 2019

after Colombian President Ivan Duque refused to recognize the reelection of his Venezuelan counterpart Nicolas Maduro.

Duque instead backed the claim of opposition leader Juan Guaido to be Venezuela’s acting president.

Colombia was one of around 60 countries to do so, having re-

jected Venezuela’s 2018 presidential election that was boycotted by the opposition.

Venezuela’s minister of foreign relations Carlos Faria hosted Colombia’s foreign minister-elect Alvaro Leyva in San Cristobal, the capital of Tachira state on the border between the two countries.

Leyva read out a statement saying that both men had “expressed their desire to progress on a work agenda towards the gradual normalization of bilateral relations from 7 August by naming ambassadors and diplomatic and consular officials.”

Maduro called the three-hour meeting “successful” and said the diplomats had discussed the border’s “progressive, economic and commercial opening” as well as “peace and security plans” for the frontier, among other topics.—AFP



Venezuela and Colombia will reestablish diplomatic relations at an ambassadorial level when leftist president-elect Gustavo Petro takes office in Bogota on 7 August, representatives of the South American neighbours said Thursday. **PHOTO: VENEZUELA.DETAILZERO/AFP**



Hundreds of internally displaced Afghans who had taken refuge in the capital head back to their homes in the country’s eastern provinces. **PHOTO: AFP**

Hundreds of war-displaced Afghans return east

HUNDREDS of internally displaced Afghans who had taken refuge in the capital left for their homes in the country’s eastern provinces Thursday, almost a year after the war that forced them to flee ended.

Millions migrated inside Afghanistan over two decades of bitter fighting during the US-led military occupation, which ended

as the Taliban returned to power last August.

Many flocked to major cities such as Kabul where air strikes, bombings and firefights were less common than in rural Afghanistan, which has historically been the hardline Islamists’ power base.

On Thursday, the United Nations refugee agency UNHCR

facilitated the return of some 1,600 Afghans who were living in Kabul to their homes in provinces to the east.

“It’s a delightful day, we’re returning to our houses and our homelands,” said Sardar Wali, 45, a farmer from Laghman province who fled to Kabul months before the Taliban stormed back to power.—AFP



Myanmar to play host Viet Nam in Viet Nam's U-19 Invitational Championship



Myanmar U-19 football players were seen in an international football match. PHOTO: MF

THE 2022 Viet Nam U-19 Invitational Tournament organized by the Viet Nam Football Federation has come out, and the Myanmar team will start playing against the host Viet Nam.

The competition will be held from 5 to 11 August, and South-east Asian countries: host Viet

Nam, Thailand, Malaysia and Myanmar teams will compete in the Championship.

Group matches will be played on 5, 7, and 9 August.

Two games will be held per day, and the third match and the final will be held on 11 August.

According to the fixture,

Malaysia faces Thailand, and Myanmar meets host Viet Nam on 5 August.

Myanmar will take on Thailand and Viet Nam will play Malaysia on 7 August.

On 9 August, Malaysia meet Myanmar and Thailand faces Viet Nam.

According to the format of the tournament, the two teams with the most points will play in the finals, and the teams ranked 3rd and 4th will play in the third round again.

The Viet Nam Football Federation is organizing the 2023 Asian Cup U-20 qualifiers for the Vietnamese team. Previously, the top Asian teams such as Japan and Saudi Arabia were listed to compete, but they withdrew and were replaced by the Malaysian and Thai teams.

Team Myanmar made special preparations for international tournaments and was formed with local talented youths. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

- (a) To enhance production based on agriculture and livestock through modern techniques and strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.
- (b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
- (c) To promote and support local businesses to create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.

3. Social affairs

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

Myanmar U-18 Women's team make it to semi-finals despite losing to Australia

THE final group matches of the ASEAN Women's U-18 Championship were held on 29 July at the Athletic Stadium in Palamban, Indonesia.

The Myanmar team played against the Australian team in the group match, and the Myanmar team lost by 1-2.

Team Myanmar was able to advance to the semi-finals from second place in the group with six points as they won two consecutive group matches. Head Coach Daw Thet Thet Win sidelined most of the key players in the match against Australia.

The Australian team took the lead in the 3rd minute of the game, but in the 23rd minute of the game, Zin Moe Pyae scored a beautiful equalizer for the Myanmar team through a free kick.

In the second half, both teams made substitutions, and the Australian team scored a

winning goal in the 65th minute, ending the match at 2-1.

In Group B, the Australian team scored nine points, and the Myanmar team advanced to the semi-finals with six points.

In the semi-final match to be held on 2 August, the Myanmar U-18 team will play against the group champion of Group A.

In Group A, Viet Nam and Thailand have good prospects to reach the semi-finals. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM



A Myanmar player (red) and an Australian player (yellow) eye on the ball during their final group match of the AFF U-18 Women's Championship held at Athletic Stadium in Palamban, Indonesia on 29 July 2022. PHOTO: MF

Myanmar Women League to resume this year

THE Myanmar National League will hold the women's league again at the end of this year, according to the football authorities. The women's league was suspended after the 2018-2019 season and will resume this year. The women's league started at the end of 2016 and lasted until the 2019 season, but was suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Myanmar National League will hold the women's league again this year from October to December, and seven or eight teams will compete. The Myanmar National League is confirming the participating teams, and most of the teams that participated in the last 2018-2019 season are expected to compete again. The women's league will be held in two rounds and will be held in Yangon. The Myanmar U-18 women's team, which is preparing to compete in international competitions, also plans to compete in the women's league to gain competition experience.

In the last three times, only two teams have won the championship, the Myawady team in the 2016-2017 season and the 2017-2018 season. And the ISPE team in the 2018-2019 season. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

