

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.

Myanmar exports rice and its products to Europe, Africa

MYANMAR'S agricultural products such as rice and rice-related products are exported by bulk carriers yearly. This year, the products will be exported to Europe and African countries from seven jet-ties at the Sule port terminal.

A total of five vessels – two measuring 183 metres in length, two with 186 metres in length and one 200-metre-long ship will carry 143,400 tonnes of rice to Belgium, Spain and Togo.

Among these five vessels, three will lead to Belgium while one to Spain and another one to Togo.

The country exports about 200,000 tonnes of rice per month and expects to ship two million metric tons this financial year, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation.

The federation will work together with government and partner organizations in solving difficulties in the export sector.

The high-grade rice is mainly exported to the Europe market, China, some ASEAN countries and Bangladesh.



The bulk carriers are seen loading export rice and rice products at Sule Port in Yangon. PHOTO: KANU

Myanmar's agriculture products, rice, broken rice and brans are exported to Europe and African countries by bulk carriers and the country exported 1,357,202 tonnes of rice by 90 vessels between April 2021 and March 2022 while 582,330 tonnes by 27 vessels in three months from April to June 2022.—Nyein Thu (MNA)/GNLM

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BLACK TEA

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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*

Central Committee on Drug Abuse Control Chairman Union Minister of Home Affairs Lt-Gen Soe Htut sends Message to International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

SINCE the 1987 UN General Assembly designated 26 June as the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, it has been the 35th time the countries across the globe have been holding ceremonies in commemoration of the day every year.

Today, 26 June 2022, the functions to torch narcotic drugs and precursor chemicals confiscated in all parts of the country are being held in Yangon, Mandalay and Taunggyi in accordance with the COVID-19 rules and regulations stipulated by the Ministry of Health and representatives from UN agencies, local and foreign organizations and embassies have been invited to attend the commemoration.

The problem of drug abuse, production and trafficking is playing havoc with the health, peace and tranquillity and development of the nations all over the world today and they have been trying to tackle the issue, but it can be seen that they have not yet been able to do so effectively and successfully.

The successive governments of Myanmar have also essayed the eradication of narcotics. As a result, cultivation and production have dropped. However, the country is still faced with a new challenge arising from the growing problem of synthetic drugs such as Ice (methamphetamine) and ketamine produced using precursor chemicals.

It should be remembered that, during the period of the global outbreak of COVID-19, drug production, trafficking and abuse have not declined; on the contrary, it has been noticeably on the increase.

In order to cope with the problem of narcotic drugs, Myanmar has applied a multi-pronged approach by framing a new policy of national drug abuse control and a strategic plan that will support the policy. Setting the strategic plan as a framework of directions, action plans have been drawn up and are being implemented in the regions and states.

Region and state governments' leadership is an important requisite for minimizing the danger of narcotic drugs. This being so, it is necessary to accelerate efforts in harmony through cooperation between the masses and civil society under the leadership of regional governments.

At the meeting (1/2021) of the Union Government held on 27 September 2021, State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing gave guidance, saying that drug producers and traffickers, playing on the political situation of the country, are producing and distributing drugs using various ways and they must be exposed and effective action must be taken against them.

For the Central Committee on Drug Abuse Control to be able to undertake its tasks more effectively, it was reorganized with 19 members under the State Administration Council's Notification 25/2022 dated 21 January 2022.

Moreover, the 1993 Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law was scrutinized and amended so

that it should be appropriate to the changing times and situations. Then, the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Amendment Law was enacted on 14 February 2018. According to the amendment law, measures are being taken to bring drug users back into society, instead of taking punitive actions against them. To be able to implement tasks under the amendment law, rules and regulations will be drawn up anew and issued in the near future.

The tasks of eradicating narcotic drugs are being carried out with increased momentum through cooperation between Tatmadaw (Defence Services) and Myanmar Police Force and the Customs Department. There are ten anti-drug police units and sixty-five squads under the Myanmar Police Force. In 2022, they were reinforced with No 11 x-ray machine unit and six x-ray machine squads, modern detectors, laboratory equipment and mobile drug test kits to be able to expose drug trafficking.

In addition, Myanmar has been conducting special anti-drug operations in cooperation with neighbouring countries: Operation 1511 by Mekong MoU six member states in 2020, Operation Mekong by Myanmar, Laos and Thailand in 2021 and Operation 1511/22 from January to March in 2022. As a result, the influx of precursor chemicals into the golden triangle area and the outflow of drugs from that area were successfully curbed.

It has been found out that, to avoid drug detection, traffickers have come to use escape routes, change their methods of carrying drugs secretly and rely on sea routes.

Chemicals are must-haves for the production of consumer goods, manufacturing industries and mining mineral resources. It has become a matter of concern that, when these chemicals find their illegal way to the places where narcotic drugs are produced, they are used as designer precursors.

To prevent the misuse of chemicals, a supervisory body for restricted chemicals was formed of respective ministries and is carrying out the work of supervising and controlling restricted chemicals. It is necessary for departments included in the supervisory body to prevent the misuse of chemicals in cooperation with the public. The body is to record the chemicals confiscated from opium and psychotropic drugs refineries and watch for unrestricted chemicals and put them on record when they are found out.

In cooperation with international agencies and organizations, the Central Committee on Drug Abuse Control surveys and inspects the import of chemicals. Inspection teams for restricted chemicals in respective regions and states are carrying out close surveillance and inspections so that restricted chemicals should not get into the hands of those who will use them in the wrong way or for the wrong purpose. As Myanmar is situated between industrialized countries that are large producers of chemicals, it is a big challenge for us to ban and control illegal chemicals.

Therefore, Myanmar exchanges information and works together with neighbouring countries and the others in the region for chemicals not to get in the wrong direction.

The government of Myanmar is taking measures for rural development and poverty reduction. At the same time, it is working for the improvement of poppy growers' standard of living and setting up businesses in place of poppy-growing by enlisting the cooperation and help of international agencies and organizations.

In poppy-growing areas, roads and bridges are being constructed, lands reclaimed, fertilizers and quality strains of crops distributed and training courses on agriculture and livestock breeding are conducted by using large sums of money to reduce poppy-growing.

Prevention is an effective way to reduce drug abuse and so students are being taught life skills and constantly educated on the dangers of drug-taking. The Ministry of Information and the Ministry of Education are working together through various ways and means to raise awareness of the menace of narcotic drugs among students and the public.

The Ministry of Health has opened 29 drug-addiction treatment centres and 59 branches to treat drug addicts and alleviate subsequent hazards and 89 methadone clinics to treat opium addicts. In 2021, treatment was given to 26,318 drug addicts and methadone was fed to 25,816.

To bring nonaddicts, former drug addicts and users back into society, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement has opened 14 rehabilitation centres and more centres will be opened in the rest of the regions and states, depending on the allocation of funds. In 2021, treatment and rehabilitation courses were conducted in Wethtikan, Mandalay, Myitkyina and Kengtung for nonaddicts, former drug addicts and users.

Being a signatory to three UN conventions, Myanmar is working together with UN member nations, ASEAN member nations, neighbouring countries, countries in the Greater Mekong Subregion and BIMSTEC member nations to be able to solve the problem of drugs. Moreover, it is undertaking anti-drug tasks in cooperation with the Myanmar-based United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNDOC), Australian Federal Police (AFP), United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), National Narcotics Control Commission of China (NNCC) and Thailand's Office of the Narcotics Control Board of Thailand (ONCB).

The government of Myanmar regards drug control tasks as a national duty and Central Committee on Drug Abuse Control will continue the fight against the danger of drugs through various ways and means. The entire mass of people and all departments concerned are urged to overcome the challenges posed by narcotic drugs, in line with the motto sent by the United Nations for this year's International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

Tatmadaw is also steering and monitoring to be straightforward on building the Union Republic rooted in democracy and the federal system having peace and tranquillity

HAVING duty consciousness among the country and people, loyalty and a variety of selfless performances with a spirit of goodwill by Tatmadaw have been witnessed in the past. Currently, Tatmadaw is also steering and monitoring to be straightforward on building the Union Republic rooted in democracy and the federal system having peace and tranquillity, and community development. I would like to highlight that every effort partaken by Tatmadaw tend to be beneficial for our motherland and ethnic people, and Tatmadaw also performs the tasks with a spirit of goodwill to be able to stand rigidly as a country among the world.

(Excerpt from the speech made by Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Maha Thray Sithu Min Aung Hlaing at the passing out parade of the 8th intake of Graduate Female Cadet Course on 22 December 2021)

Union Information Minister inspects film industry development project site, attends pre-celebration of Myanmar Music Day



MoI Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn and dignitaries watch the music performance to hail Myanmar Music Day at the MRTV Studio A in Yangon on 24 June.

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn inspected the film industry development project site in Hlegu Township of Yangon Region together with Region Advocate-General U Htay Aung, the patron, the chairman of the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization and departmental officials yesterday.

During the visit, the Union minister underscored the government's support to develop Myanmar's film industry, granting loans and sustainable plans for artistes and the government plan to implement a film city project or film industry development

project to ensure sustainable development of the film industry.

He also highlighted the project to start from the possible stage, profitable situations with the collaboration of local entrepreneurs rather than the only investment of the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization and filming sectors and a recreational site for people as the project located near Yangon including the goodwill of the Prime Minister for artistes.

The Union minister also attended the Myanmar Music Day ceremony organized by the Myanmar Music Association

(Central) at the MRTV Studio A on Pyay Road on the evening of 24 June.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Union minister said the artistes are the role models for people and it needs to try hard for them. The ministry also broadcasts modern and innovative programmes for the elderly and young people. The artistes should perform the people with their art skills in unity.

The music festival organized by the Myanmar Music Association (Central) marking Myanmar Music Day that will fall on 27 June will lead to succes-

sive activities of artistes in the future. The ministry will support the literary, film and theatrical industries including the music industry as much as it can.

Then, the Myanmar Music Association (Central) Chairman U Lwin Myint reported on the formation of the organization in 1963 and its activities of the organization for the country.

Then, singers sang the songs for the ceremony.

Then, Yangon Region Advocate-General U Htay Aung provided K2.5 million to the Myanmar Music Association (Central) on behalf of the Yangon Region

chief minister to organization Chairman U Lwin Myint.

The Union minister presented flower bouquets to the artistes who entertained at the pre-celebration marking Myanmar Music Day.

The day 27 June was designated as Myanmar Music Day on which the "Dobama Song", the National Anthem emerged. According to the record, the "Dobama Song" was set as a national song at the second conference of the Dobama Asiayone, the "We Burmans Association" held on 27 June 1936.—MNA

MRIC holds its second meeting

THE second meeting 2/2022 of the Mandalay Region Investment Committee-MRIC was organized on 24 June and attended by Region Investment Committee Chairman Chief Minister Wunna Kyaw Htin U Maung Ko and committee members.

During the meeting, the chief minister said the regional government allows the investments that support the country's economy within the boundary of the framework. The Myanmar Investment Commission also

invites more investments and prioritizes proper investments that conform with the regions by setting short- and medium-term plans. The region investment committee will help in solving difficulties.

Then, committee secretary Dr Min Zaw Oo reported on the application of investments and the extension of the investment period and the chief minister instructed the necessary things.—MNA



The second meeting of the Mandalay Region Investment Committee in progress.

Efforts should be made to develop agro-based industries and increase private sector investment: MoALI Union Minister

UNION Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Tin Htut Oo and officials visited private factories in the Thakayta Industrial Zone and the Thilawa Industrial Zone on 24 June to coordinate the needs of entrepreneurs.

During his visit, the Union minister said that efforts should be made to coordinate the needs of government departments for the development of agro-based industries and the development of private sector investment. First, the Union minister and party inspected the fish and shellfish products of a private industrial company in the Thakayta Industrial Zone and observed the operation of frozen shrimp processing.

“It would be more profitable for entrepreneurs to be able to produce and export high-value products such as fish fillets rather than export shrimp,” he



pointed out.

The Union minister also discussed job creation conditions for local people, fish caught from natural freshwater and saltwater in addition to farmed fish and shrimp in the long run and

making efforts to produce and export shrimp.

Afterwards, the Union minister and party inspected rice mills, the use of bran oil mill and rice husk electricity in the field, wheat production and food pro-

duction, advanced oil refineries and refineries and packaging factories.

The Union minister said that the oil mills from advanced oil mills can be fully used for animal feedstuffs so that ed-

ible oil can be produced as a by-product.

He also discussed the need for cooperation for the emergence of small and medium-sized oil refineries needed for the domestic oil industry, and issues related to the expansion of the joint venture contract farming system between entrepreneurs and farmers to ensure that entrepreneurs can get the required quantity and quality of crops.

Similarly, the Union minister and party inspected the production of agricultural input compound fertilizers in the Thilawa Industrial Zone.

The Union minister also discussed issues related to domestic agricultural inputs and access to imported raw materials and private entrepreneurs producing different proportions of fertilizers depending on the needs of the crop. —MNA

IPRD trainees visit Nay Pyi Taw MRTV

A total of 32 trainees from the Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD) observed the broadcasting programmes of the Myanma Radio and Television (MRTV) and the Diamond Jubilee Museum of the Ministry of Information in Tatkon, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday morning.

The trainees viewed the equipment used for generations of television broadcasts on display at the Diamond Jubilee Mu-

seum of the MRTV, live broadcast mobile vehicles, reporting formats, documentary photos of those who have participated in the broadcasts for generations, musical instruments, news studios, antique records and other accessories used in the radio programmes.

In addition to the exhibits in a total of 40 galleries, the trainees toured the television broadcasting facilities inside the

main building with officials giving them explanations.

The trainees from the Information and Public Relations Department attended the E-Library Management System Software Usage Training 3/2022 from 20 to 24 June.

Before returning to their respective areas, they visited the Myanma Radio and Television and studied the broadcasting programmes. —MNA



15 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 25 June, total figure rises to 613,553

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **613,553** after **15** new cases were reported on 25 June 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **592,528** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll stands at **19,434** without more casualties. —MNA

High-rise buildings rent as dormitories

THE living styles in the Yangon area have been changing year after year.

The two or three-storey standalone houses are also rented to the business people. Apartment rental is also on the rise. During the COVID-19 period, most of the businesses face losses and the standalone houses in the Yangon area cannot be rented anymore and are shut down temporarily so far.

Although two telephone operator companies rented the stand-alone houses in Lanmadaw Township and they cannot run the operations this year. Similarly, some standalone houses are shut down on Maha Bandoola Road.

The two-storey standalone house was on sale at about K700 million and rented by the business people. The rental price of a 12.5x50 feet unit is K300,000 per month.

Some of the apartments are rented by families and sometimes as dormitories. The people rent with a three or six-month contract.

The people are selling/buying/renting the houses in the streets, said Ko Aung Htwe from 13th street. The sale price of top-floor apartments in the downtown area is about K37 million, said real estate agent Ma Aye Chan.

The rental fee of one unit is about K200,000 and five people rent it by collecting K60,000 from



Some adverts are seen expressing female-exclusive dormitory rental.

each of them and staying there as a dormitory. The renters have to arrange the room structure and others have to pay power and water bills. They mainly inspect whether the apartments have access to water or not.

Due to the short-term lease, the trucks of house moving services are seen in the street, said Ko Zaw Win from South Okkalapa Township.

It takes time in moving from one place to another, said Ma Thanda who lives in a dormitory.

Although the apartment rental fees are lower than the sale prices, there are still no clients and so the apartment is rented, said owner Ko Kygyi. The real estate agents and brokers have to divide the service fees after their work, said an agent. The owners check the apartment before the renters leave to ask for maintenance fees if they find some damages, said Ma Khin Zarchi, apartment owner from Pabedan Township. — TWA/GNL

Public rental housing project phase 1 developed in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay



One public rental housing project in Nay Pyi Taw.

THE government is implementing the public rental housing project phase 1 – over 300 buildings with 5,008 units in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay, according to Yangon City Development Committee.

The project is aimed at government employees, retired persons and low-income people.

In developing the public rental housing project, the Nay Pyi Taw Council, Yangon and Mandalay regions' governments provided the land and infrastructure.

The rental housing will include

10,000 apartments and a total of 313 buildings with 5,008 units that will be constructed in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay. The needed budget will be sought for the 2022-2023 union budget.

The Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Federation (MCEF) constructs 20 buildings and Myanmar Licenced Contractors Association (MLCA) builds 20 buildings in Yangon and will be completed by the end of July 2022.

Each association constructs 97 buildings respectively and the re-

maining 77 buildings are expected to be completed by the end-March 2023.

It completes 95 per cent of construction and 65 per cent of infrastructure in Nay Pyi Taw to date while 56 per cent of construction and 34 per cent of infrastructure in Yangon and 88 per cent in construction and infrastructure each in Mandalay.

The public rental housing phase 1 is 22 buildings with 448 units in Nay Pyi Taw, 194 buildings with 3,104 units in Yangon and 91 buildings with 1,456 units in Mandalay. — TWA/GNL

YBS to face suspension for collecting upcharges, employing conductors



Some YBS buses are seen in the city centre.

OFFICIALS will revoke the licences of YBS lines if they collect extra charges of bus fares and employ conductors on their buses, said joint-secretary U Lian Cin Mang of the Yangon Region Transport Committee-YRTC.

The authorities suspended 112 YBS buses from running for three months for breaking rules.

They also suspended 251 buses for three months for employing conductors on the busses while 46 buses for six months for collecting extra bus fares and 126 buses for one year for employing conductors and collecting over K500 of bus fares.

A total of 535 YBS buses faced legal actions, and 126 buses are still facing the actions.

The YRTC conducts road safety talks continuously for YBS drivers and about 200 drivers join the events.

Over 3,100 buses of 116 YBS bus lines are commuting more than 900,000 passengers daily, according to YRTA data. —TWA/GNL

Yangon Mayor inspects volunteer works in schools, universities

YANGON Mayor U Bo Htay, in his capacity as chairman of the Yangon City Development Committee, and the vice-mayor, the secretary, the committee members and officials inspected the Basic Education Middle School No 17 in Ward 8 of Hlinethaya (East) Township yesterday morning.

Departmental staff and social organizations, in collaboration with local people, conducted the cleaning work of weeds and bushes in the school compound, the pruning of trees to get more sunlight,

the cleaning work of drains for a better drainage system and the mosquito spraying in the classrooms for the prevention of dengue fever. The mayor and officials viewed the process and gave instructions to responsible personnel for further needs.

Similarly, the mayor and officials checked the cleaning work that was conducted at the Basic Education High School No 5 Shwepyitha, located on the Yuzana Street of Ward 9 and instructed where necessary.

Later, the party led by

the Yangon mayor inspected the cleaning process that was performed by a collaborative team consisting of the administration department of Yangon District (North), departmental staff, social organizations and local people, at the University of West Yangon in Htantabin Township and viewed the construction of restrooms and changing rooms for sports and the students from the Mathematics Department who were learning their education, it is learnt.—MNA

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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.

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, foodstuffs, consumer goods, construction tools, vehicle parts and 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 led by the Forest Department made inspections on 22 and 23 June, according to information.

They seized a total of 4.896 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K576,926 in Mindon, Kanma and Sedoktara townships. The action

was prosecuted under the Forest Law.

In addition, an on-duty team carried out inspections under the management of the Customs Department. They confiscated K22.5 million worth of construction tools without any declaration in the Import Declaration (ID) on 22 June.

Afterwards, K777,000 worth of motorbike parts and tapes that showed no Import Declaration (ID) on 23 June.

The actions were taken un-

der the Customs Procedures.

Similarly, the on-duty team made inspections at the 16th-Mile checkpoint and captured K4,909,900 worth of consumer goods, toys and playing-card boxes from two vehicles (approximately K24 million) heading from Muse to Mandalay on 23 June.

In addition, at the Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) combined checkpoint confiscated K3.15 million car tyres that exceeded the number of the Import Declaration (ID) from a truck on 22 June and a total of K3



An official checks confiscated commodities.



Seized machines at the Myanmar Industrial Port.

million worth of vermicelli packs and K1.5 million worth of car tyres that exceeded the number of the Import Declaration (ID) from two trucks on 23 June.

And also, K1.11 million worth of suitcases that showed no declaration in the Import Declaration (ID) from a truck were captured at the Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) combined checkpoint.

The actions were taken under the Customs Procedures.

A combined team made inspections under the supervision of the Bago Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force near the Phayagyi Tollgate on 23 June.

They captured K12 million worth of sandals with lotus flower

brands that showed no declaration in the Import Declaration (ID) from a Nissan 12-wheel truck (approximately K12 million) heading from Myawady to Yangon. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

In addition, a team led by the Forest Department confiscated a total of 2.45 tonnes of illegal teak logs worth K808,500 in the Khap-aung forest reserve of Toungoo district on 25 June and, the action was taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, 18 arrests estimated at K96,332,326 were made on four consecutive days from 22 to 25 June, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

MoC oversees importation of essential anti-COVID-19 equipment

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

From 1 to 25 June 2022, two oxygen storage tanks, 1,000 empty oxygen cylinders, 300 COVID test kits, 101,150 PPE suits and

51.46 tonnes of masks were imported by eight companies.

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

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



Lorries are pictured transporting the imported anti-Covid medical supplies to where necessary.

Demonstration of Napier grass held for feedstuffs in Myawady



The demonstration of Napier grass in action.

MYAWADY District Livestock and Veterinary Department of Myawady Township held a demonstration planting Napier grass on the land of U Ne Win Oo, a cattle farmer in Wae Shan village on 24 June.

At the exhibition, Dr Min Win Aung, Township Director of the Livestock and Veterinary Department, said that the live-

stock system will be developed by farmers by cultivating plants for feedstuffs.

“By growing grasses with high nutritional value, animals will have a higher growth rate and better productivity. Reducing costs for feedstuffs will also help farmers develop better fodder practices and develop livestock breeding,” he elaborated.

District Head of the Livestock and Veterinary Department Dr Tint Lwin, Township Head Dr Min Win Aung and staff, District Head U Tin Naing Oo of the Department of Agriculture in Myawady District, the Waeshan village administrator and livestock farmers attended the event. — Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)

Health officials give COVID-19 booster doses in Amar Town

HEALTH officials administered booster doses of COVID-19 to civil servants and people at a rural health centre in Pyapon District, Ayeyawady Region yesterday.

Additional booster doses of the Covishield vaccine were given to civil servants and the public six months after their full COVID-19 vaccination starting from 9:30 am

to 2 pm.

One phial of the vaccine was given to 11 people and as of yesterday afternoon, more than 60 staff and people have been vaccinated.

Booster doses will be given to the remaining staff and people in the next few days, according to the Department of Public Health. — Naw Lay (Amar IPRD)/GNLM



A local gets a booster dose in Pyapon District.

Public Notification

THE Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee was reconstituted under the State Administration Council's Order No 366/2021 dated 10.12.2021, and action is being taken effectively against illegal trade under the law.

The following telephone numbers, fax and email address can be reached to safely report information in connection with illegal trade.

- Auto telephone number - 067 409 883
 - Mobile phone - 09 404339969
 - Fax - 067 409 886
 - Email address - antiillegaltradeinfo@gmail.com
- Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee*

Public Notification

THE Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee was reconstituted under the State Administration Council's Order No 366/2021 dated 10.12.2021, and action is being taken effectively against illegal trade under the law.

Regarding the “request for money from departmental organizations in conducting trade”, the following numbers can be reached to safely report such information.

- Auto telephone number - 067 409 881
 - Mobile phone - 09 699611116
 - Fax - 067 409 887
 - Email address - antiillegaltradeoffice@gmail.com
- Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee*

OPINION

ARTICLE BOOKRACK

Fight drug abuse and illicit trafficking for all mankind

SINCE the UN General Assembly 1987 designated 26th June as the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, it has been the 35th time the countries across the globe have been holding ceremonies in commemoration of the day every year.

Myanmar has been conducting special drug eradication operations in cooperation with neighbouring countries: Operation 1511 by Greater Mekong Sub-region's six countries in 2020, Operation Mekong by Myanmar, Laos and Thailand in 2021 and Operation 1511/22 from January to March 2022. As a result, the influx of precursor chemicals into the golden triangle area and the outflow of drugs from that area were successfully curbed.

The government emphasizes drug eradication as a national duty while the CCDAC decides to measure drug abuse control in various ways and means. As such, the entire people should join hands with the government in successfully overcoming the drug-related challenges.

The contents included (1) Changes in the appearance of the family and diversification of life, (2) Marriage and family circumstances, (3) Issues of gender equality at the age of 100 years of life. It specifically writes about the wage gap between men and women, the number of people per household, the mode of life expectancy is 93 years for women and 88 years for men, and the longevity is extending. The government's tax system and guarantee system of livelihood do not seem to match these changes.

Chemicals are must-haves for the production of consumer goods, manufacturing industries and mining mineral resources. When these chemicals find their illegal way to the places where narcotic drugs are produced, they are used as designer precursors.

The government strives for rural development and poverty alleviation while seeking assistance from international organizations to undertake alternative development tasks in order to enhance the social life of local poppy growers.

Development undertakings are mushrooming in poppy-growing areas, and training

courses on agriculture and livestock breeding are conducted by spending large sums of money on the reduction of poppy growing. The Ministry of Information and the Ministry of Education jointly raise public awareness of the danger of drugs through various ways and means.

The Ministry of Health manages 29 drug addiction treatment departments and 59 units, and 89 methadone clinics to enable drug addicts to receive treatment and ease consequent dangers of hazards. These units provided treatments to 26,318 drug addicts and gave methadone drugs to 25,816 patients in 2021. So far, 14 rehabilitation camps give training to the former drug addicts who have been treated for their re-unification in society. In 2021, the rehabilitation camps were opened in Wethitikan, Mandalay, Myitkyina and Kengtung.

Myanmar has signed three UN conventions to solve the drug problems in cooperation with the international community. Myanmar joins hands with the Myanmar-based United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime-UNODC, the Australian Federal Police-AFP, the Drug Enforcement Administration-DEA of the United States, the Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission (NNCC) of China, and the Office of the Narcotics Control Board-ONCB of Thailand in the elimination of drugs.

The government emphasizes drug eradication as a national duty while the CCDAC decides to measure drug abuse control in various ways and means. As such, the entire people should join hands with the government in successfully overcoming the drug-related challenges.

Marriage is a risk for women: A shift in values by men is needed

By Suzuka YOSHIDA

GENDER Equality White Paper 2022 Edition" was published by the Cabinet Office of the Government of Japan in June.

The contents included (1) Changes in the appearance of the family and diversification of life, (2) Marriage and family circumstances, (3) Issues of gender equality at the age of 100 years of life. It specifically writes about the wage gap between men and women, the number of people per household, the mode of life expectancy is 93 years for women and 88 years for men, and the longevity is extending. The government's tax system and guarantee system of livelihood do not seem to match these changes.

Changes that can be seen compared to 40 to 50 years ago

Below is a list of what we learned from this survey.

- Life expectancy is 87.71 years for women and 81.56 years for men.
- The number of over 100-year-old is 70,000 women and less than 10,000 men.
- The number of divorcees is one-third of the number of marriages.
- 50 per cent of women and 70 per cent of men are unmarried in their 20s, who have no spouse or lover.
- "No intention of getting married" is with 14.0 per cent of 20s women, 25.4 per cent in 30s women, 19.3 per cent of

20s men, and 26.5 per cent of 30s men.

- Regarding the reasons for "no intention of marriage", the maximum value for both men and women between the ages of 20 and 39 is "I don't want to be tied up with marriage, I want to be free" and "I haven't met someone I love so much as to get married". Both were maximum values.
- The reasons why women have a prominently high number of "no intention to marry" are "because married women will have to be responsible for work, housework, childcare, and nursing care for husband's parents" and "don't hope to change my surname".
- The family image has changed. Household composition is below:

	1980	2020
Living alone	19.8%	38.0%
Single parents and children	5.7%	9.0%
Three generations together	19.9%	7.7%

- The number of households in which women work full-time (35 hours or more per week) after marriage is not much different from four to five million, but the number of households having a part-time job was 2.28 million in 1985 but increased by seven million households in 2020.
- The average annual income of mother-child households is low, and non-regular employment is 52.3 per cent.

- Sixty per cent of married women earn less than two million yen (\$15,400)/year even for their work.
- The divorce rate per 1,000 people is 3.39 in 1883 and 1.57 in 2020, which is half of 140 years ago.
- The percentage of children born out of wedlock was 9.4 per cent in 1903 and 2.4 per cent in 2020.
- Marriage without registration accounts for about 2-3 per cent of the population.

Marriage forces women to be treated unfairly

"The Gender Equality White Paper" has been published every year since 2000, and the statistics themselves have been taken since the previous era. Changes in society can be seen by looking at statistical changes in the living conditions of individuals and households such as marriage and income.

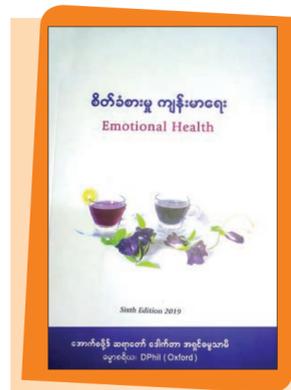
One of the social changes in recent years is the establishment of a model in which women earn a lifetime income. More and more women continue to work in exactly the same way as men, and they are trying to live their lives independently. In Japanese customs, after marriage, the husband's surname is often used to create a family register; but an increasing number of women refuse to do so and choose "marriage without register" (two to three per cent of the total). Moreover, most of the burden of housework and childcare is imposed on women, and men are just "limited cooperation" and "support for their wife". For women who have already achieved results in society with their surnames from the time they were born, changing their surnames and taking on most of the childcare and household chores is equivalent to changing their way of life. Marriage means enduring unfair treatment. Therefore, fewer women want to get married.

By the way, many married women still quit their jobs and concentrate on domestic work such as housework and childcare until their children enter elementary school. However, when children go on to high school, parents have to pay a large amount of money for the child's education. Suddenly, women have to quit their households and get some work.

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Photo @ Cabinet Public Affairs Office
Ms Seiko Noda, Minister of State for Measures for Declining Birthrate. She has been leading the policy of population as a member of the House of Representatives and making great efforts of publishing the "Gender Equality White Paper" every year.



Book title - Emotional Health
Author - Oxford Sayadaw Dr Ashin Dhammasami
Publishing House - Shan State Buddhist University (Taunggyi city)
Publication Date - January 2022 (7th Edition)
Price - K3,000

Emotional Health

THAT kind of intrusive thought "Oh! Why does it happen only to me? Why am I the only one to get into trouble? " can lead one to depression. The negative thoughts can exaggerate the stress. It is because your ego affects your mental health. You can feel relieved if you change your mind that it is not just me. If you notice that everyone is struggling with stress, you might control it.

"Deconstruction of the ego is getting rid of the depersonalization process. In Buddhist practice, ego destruction is a goal," stated on the back cover of the book.

The book entitled "Emotional Health" is the seventh edition issued by Oxford Sayadaw Ashin Dhammasami who mainly delivers sermons based on mindfulness, empathy, compassion and emotion. The readers will know why the seventh edition was released, while they are reading it.

The book will point out the keys to overcoming the problems we face daily. It will

also illustrate the escape from the ego-depleted state and trouble. Sayadaw expressed the Buddha's teachings to the point, with over 60 contents.

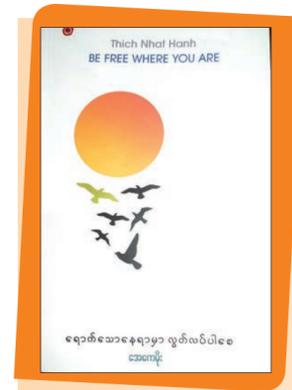
Under "Stress and triggers" content, anxiety and severe stress will worsen your negative thoughts. It will trigger disorder when your thoughts and emotions are mixed up. Your compulsive intrusive thoughts will hold anger or distress.

The factory cannot run for a long term without servicing.

Unless you heal and rest your mind, you will get into health problems. Meditation focusing on mindful breathing techniques (noticing inhaling and exhaling through your nostrils) will achieve an emotionally clear and stable state.

It is a kind of servicing or plugging the battery of your electronic devices (phone, iPad). After you pay attention to the breaths properly, you had better practice how to change soft and soothing breathing techniques. Let go of those sufferings in your mind and rest your mind, body and soul.

Additionally, unless you deal with the stress properly, it will lead to a Dumpster fire. One has to treat those worrisome signals. Unless you are doing so, it will result in a completely disastrous life. Fear will swallow the family, party, and nation. As Myanmar's proverb "Never too late to mend", this book aims to enlighten the readers about the cultivation of proper intentions, mindfulness and stress management in a short while.



Book Title - Be Free Where You Are
Translator - A K Moe
Publishing House - The Eras
Publication Date - May 2022 (1st Edition)
Price - K2,500

Be Free Where You Are

INTERNATIONAL Yoga Day is celebrated annually across the globe on 21 June. As yoga can contribute to physical and mental health wellness, it is designated to improve the health of human beings. With the rapidly changing lifestyle, people explore practices including yoga that can relax mentally, physically and emotionally. Mindfulness breathing techniques according to Buddhist practice are one of them.

A book entitled "Be Free Where You Are" by a Zen Buddhist Monk named Thich Nhat Hanh is based on the talk given at Maryland Prison to the prisoners in 1999 about how mindfulness can give you freedom no matter where you are. This is a translated book in Myanmar by Saya A

K Moe. The talks guided the prisoners to construct a daily practice with mindfulness.

The book contains 14 chapters; for compassion, power of being free, cultivation of freedom, a touch of bravery, you are marvellous, grasp your freedom right now, walking like a free man, wonderful time, practice how to smile, a grateful person will never get into trouble, kindness is a reason to be free, understanding can cultivate compassion, how to cope with the storms of life and putting a smile on your cheek for bad habits. Additionally, documentary pictures of Thich Nhat Hanh's religious journey, replies to the prisoners' queries and a collection of remarks given by the attendees during the talks at the prison.

Thich Nhat Hanh responded to the questions raised by a prisoner stating that "What is Buddhism? Is it religion? Buddha is heaven? that Buddha was just a human. He is not a creator with divine power, which I reminded sermon listeners of frequently. He is a teacher. One who follows his teaching will comprehend the perception of nature. He gave a maximum number of sermons. It is called Sutta Pitaka - Buddha's teachings. I mentioned Mindful breathing techniques - Insight Meditation. How to overcome obstacles in life with 16 stages and how to improve intelligence and sympathy are stated in the book. Other sermons also lead to changing one's life and true freedom.

ARTICLE/ENVIRON WORLD

Marriage is a risk for women: A shift in values by men is needed

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Here again, women are forced to change their way of life. In reality, even if a woman over the age of 40 tries to get a new job, the employer side prefers young people. It is because young people have a good memory for work, they seem to work for a long time, and they contribute flexibly. The matching of human resources does not progress, so most are starting small part-time jobs, whose annual income is less than two million yen (\$15,400).

If you subtract the maintenance cost from your disposable income ...

The Japanese tax system is calculated on a family basis, not on an individual basis. The basic model in the 1960s and 1950s was one when fathers worked and mothers often did housework and childcare at home. Married women accepted small wages for work because if dependents work over 1.3 million yen (\$10,000), taxes and social insurance premiums shall be the same as full-time. To the last, the woman is insisted to assist her husband.

The success of women in recent years has destroyed the ba-

sic model. More and more women work outside, and it has become common for children to earn their own livelihoods after school. In other words, the mechanism of mutual support and mutual support between multiple people, which can be called a "family", has diminished considerably.

Most households have elderly people living alone, not only in urban areas but also in rural areas, and their maintenance expenses such as housing expenses, utility expenses, food expenses, etc. are leaning on each householder. If householders deduct maintenance expenses (utility costs, housing costs etc.) from their disposable income, a small amount of food will be left in their hands.

Public services and the tax system should be changing, too

Then what we should do?

One measure is to make the social service network such as income tax and health insurance not on a household basis but on an individual basis, which is currently taxed by adding up the incomes of husbands and wives. If each person is evenly taxed, whether they work or not, the wife



Image of Family

The basic model of the family is the same as 70 years ago-one.

goes to work full-time without worrying about her dependents' income caps. This is because the cost performance is better. Also, GDP should increase more since new labour-power will join the industrial area while the labour for the family is not counted as GDP so far.

Second, it is efficient to shift to the idea of outsourcing housework and childcare. When the child is small, women abandon

the superstition (delusion) that the mother should raise children, and receives social services such as leaving them in a nursery school from about 3 months after giving birth. In that way, the current labour shortage problems can be resolved considerably as well. It is said that administrators in the local government make excuses for being few childcare workers, but if they raise wages, the number

of people who choose to work as childcare workers will increase. Infrastructure problems can be solved by utilizing vacant houses without building a new building. Can Japan smoothly switch to a law and tax system that captures the changes of the times indicated by the Gender Equality White Paper? With 90 per cent of the legislature being male parliamentarians, that would be difficult. ■

China restores over half of its desertified land

CHINA has restored over half of its manageable desertified land over the past decade, making great strides in addressing desertification, according to the country's forestry authority.

In total, 18.8 million hectares of desertified land have been harnessed and 1.77 million hectares have been sealed off for protection over the past decade, according to the National Forestry and Grassland Administration.

The area of desertified land in the country has shrunk by 4.33 million hectares since 2012, with significant improvement to the ecological environment in sand areas, said an official from the administration.

China has established 41 national comprehensive demonstration zones for desertification control and 128 national desert parks over the past 10 years, he



Workers in Wuwei, Gansu province, endeavour to stave off desertification on Thursday. Improved technology makes it easier to keep the relentless march of sand and desert winds at bay. PHOTO: CHEN BIN/XINHUA

said. "Sandy and dusty weather in the country has decreased significantly over the past five years, down 31 per cent compared with the 11th Five-Year Plan period (2006-2010)," he added.

Apart from addressing desertification, the country has also made full use of the sand area's rich heat and land resources to develop agricultural, tourism and other related industries to boost income of local people.—Xinhua

German activists up their game to keep climate centre stage

WITH climate change pushed down the news agenda as Germany tackles an energy crisis and the war in Ukraine, environmental activists are resorting to increasingly eye-catching stunts to get their message across.

This week, around a dozen activists sprayed a black liquid that looked like oil on the chancellery in Berlin and stood in front of the building with a banner that read: "Save oil instead of drilling."

Dressed in orange high-visibility jackets and hard hats, the protesters were members of Letzte Generation ("Last Generation") — a radical protest group that has become the new face of environmental activism in Germany.

"The government has ignored everything else: petitions

have been written, a million people have taken to the streets," said Lina Joansen, a 24-year-old student taking part in the protest.

The activists want a promise from the government that it will not drill for oil in the North Sea. "We know that fossil fuels can only aggravate the climate catastrophe that is already happening," said law student Myriam Herrmann, 25.

Six months ago, a new coalition government was elected in Germany on a promise to make climate change one of its top priorities. The Greens entered power for the first time in more than two decades, forming a coalition with the Social Democrats (SPD) under Chancellor Olaf Scholz and the liberal FDP.—AFP

BA.5 becomes dominant COVID-19 variant in Germany

THE Omicron sub-lineage BA.5 became the dominant COVID-19 variant in Germany, accounting for around half of infections, according to the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) for infectious diseases.

“The strong increase in share of this variant has continued together with BA.4 and BA.2.12.1,” the RKI said in its weekly report on Thursday. With the increasing spread of these more contagious variants, a “rebound in infection numbers” was also observed.

Daily COVID-19 infections continued to rise as 108,190 new cases were registered on Friday, according to the RKI. Germany’s seven-day COVID-19 incidence rate climbed from 533 infections per 100,000 inhabit-

ants on the previous day to 618.

Health Minister Karl Lauterbach is supporting expert demands to vaccinate or booster 40 million people before winter. “BA.5 is not harmless. In winter we must be very well prepared, otherwise chaos is looming,” he said on Twitter.

Lauterbach will present the country’s COVID-19 health measures for the coming fall after examining the results of an expert report on the effectiveness of past COVID-19 measures, which is set to be completed in early July. Although businesses in Germany are supporting to prepare in time, specific measures in fall and winter should be carefully evaluated, the German Retail Federation (HDE) said earlier this week. —Xinhua



People stand in line at a coronavirus (COVID-19) testing centre in Germany. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Issuance of EU Digital COVID Certificates extended until June 2023

THE EU has extended the regulation on the EU Digital COVID Certificate by one year until 30 June 2023, said the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health in a press release on Thursday.

The regulation will ensure free movement in the EU even if the COVID-19 situation deteriorates in the future.

All travellers should still check beforehand whether their country of destination requires the certificate upon arrival or for using services.

The EU Digital COVID Certificate was first introduced in June 2021. It was originally in force until 30 June 2022.

Although the regulation is now extended by one year, the need for the certificate will be reassessed in six months’ time. The EU wants to repeal the certificate as soon as the health situation allows it.—Xinhua

First monkeypox detected in South Africa



The first case of monkeypox has been detected in Gauteng province, home to Johannesburg and Pretoria. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

THE first case of monkeypox has been detected in South Africa on a 30-year-old man who didn’t travel recently, the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) said on Thursday.

The man was residing in Gauteng province, home to Johannesburg and Pretoria, and it was detected through laboratory testing at the NICD on Wednesday, the division of the National Health Laboratory Service said

in a statement.

NICD said it has commenced contact tracing, identifying any additional linked cases, and recent large social events might serve as super-spreader events.

Since May 2022, monkeypox has been reported in more than 3,000 individuals from a number of African countries, several European countries, US, Canada, among others.

This is the first multi-country outbreak of monkeypox and is already the largest outbreak of monkeypox recorded.

Person-to-person transmission of monkeypox involves close contact with an infected person or materials that have been contaminated by an infected person. The virus is not highly transmissible and close physical contact is required for transmission.—Xinhua

US CDC recommends Moderna COVID-19 vaccine for children, adolescents

VACCINE advisers to the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) voted on Thursday to support recommending the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine for use in people ages 6 through 17 years old.

The vaccine received emergency use authorization from the US Food and Drug Administration last week.

This recommendation reinforces the use of Moderna’s COVID-19 vaccine as an important tool in the pandemic and provides another vaccine option for children and adolescents, said the CDC in a statement.

Previously, the Moderna vaccine was already recommended for use in children six months through five years old



A nurse administers a paediatric dose of the Covid-19 vaccine to a girl at a Los Angeles. **PHOTO: ROBYN BECK/AFP**

and adults 18 years and older.

“Today, we have expanded the options available to families by recommending a second safe and effective vaccine for chil-

dren ages six through 17 years,” said CDC Director Rochelle P. Walensky after endorsing the advisors’ recommendation.—Xinhua

ECONOMY WORLD

China's financial market sees improved capability in serving real economy: central bank

China's financial market saw improvements in its capability to serve the real economy over the past decade, according to the central bank.

During this period, the financial industry reported steady growth with reasonably ample liquidity, said Chen Yulu, vice-governor of the People's Bank of China, during a briefing on Thursday.

As of the end of 2021, the M2, a broad measure of money supply that covers cash in circulation and all deposits, came in at 238.29 trillion yuan (about 35.5 trillion US dollars), while the annual growth rate from 2012 to 2021 reached 10.8 per cent.

During the same period, the average annual growth rate for outstanding yuan loans was 13.3 per cent.

Amid continued efforts to boost innovation, the balance of medium and long-term loans for the high-tech manufacturing sector has increased by nearly seven times compared with 10 years ago.

China has been enhancing the inclusiveness of the financial market to boost the economy. As of the end of this year's first quarter, the outstanding inclu-



Photo taken on 17 May 2022 shows a team working at Shanghai Stock Exchange Data Services Co., Ltd. **PHOTO: SHANGHAI STOCK EXCHANGE/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA**

sive loans topped 20 trillion yuan, and micro firms and individual supporting over 50 million small businesses.—Xinhua

EU unveils plans to issue 50 bln euros in bonds

THE European Commission on Friday announced plans to issue 50 billion euros (52.8 billion US dollars) of EU-Bonds to finance the NextGenerationEU recovery programme between July and December.

The funds for the temporary recovery instrument were aimed at supporting member states' economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic and helping build a greener, more digital and more resilient Europe.

To finance NextGenerationEU, the European Commission aims to raise around 800 billion euros from capital markets between mid-2021 and the end of 2026. Up to nine billion euros in loans to support Ukraine may also be issued by the Commission, under a new exceptional



The European Commission is empowered by the EU Treaties to borrow from the international capital markets on behalf of the European Union. **PHOTO: EUROPEAN COMMISSION/XINHUA**

Macro-Financial Assistance (MFA) programme, as well as up to 6.6 billion euros in loans under the SURE programme for mitigation of temporary unemployment risks.

"In the second half of the year,

we will continue to support the recovery, fund the green and digital transitions and Europe's long-term resilience through market funding," said Johannes Hahn, commissioner in charge of budget and administration.—Xinhua

Tunisia trade unions chief rejects IMF reforms

THE head of Tunisia's powerful UGTT trade union on Thursday rejected International Monetary Fund conditions for a new loan to bail out the country's struggling economy and questioned the government's authority to negotiate.

Noureddine Taboubi's comment came a day after an IMF official said the global lender is ready to begin formal talks on a new financial aid package for

Tunisia.

"We reject the conditions set by the IMF, given Tunisians' low salaries, lack of means, rising poverty and unemployment," Taboubi told reporters, a week after the UGTT staged a nation-wide public sector strike that saw flights cancelled, public transport halted and government offices closed. The North African country, already heavily indebted and reeling from price hikes

on imports like oil and wheat since Russia invaded Ukraine, is angling for a two billion-euro loan, according to a source with knowledge of preliminary talks.

The global lender has conditioned such a bailout on "ambitious reforms" to rein in public spending and reform Tunisia's state-owned companies.

But on Thursday Taboubi rejected "the painful options they're talking about".—AFP

African economies see reasons for optimism despite crises

FROM Covid-19 to the war in Ukraine, external crises have put pressure on African economies, but many on the continent see opportunities to undertake radical reforms.

Africa already showed some resilience during the pandemic as its economic contraction was less severe than in the rest of the world, shrinking by two per cent compared to 3.3 per cent globally in 2020. While Russia's invasion of Ukraine is weighing on the world economy, Africa faces a better outlook again in 2022. "Africa is headed towards growth of around 3.7 per cent, while in North America and Europe there is a real risk of recession", said economist Lionel Zinsou, formerly prime minister of Benin.

"We haven't been the biggest victims of the pandemic, and we won't be the biggest victims of the collateral conse-

quences of the war in Ukraine", added Zinsou. The conflict in Europe has fuelled a surge in global inflation, but Zinsou said growing prices for raw materials will compensate for the higher costs of imports in Africa.

Another positive signal is that investor confidence in Africa is up to a higher level than that before the pandemic.

Of 190 business owners in Africa who were questioned, 78 per cent voiced confidence about their development prospects — compared to 61 per cent before the Covid crisis, according to a report by the Deloitte accountancy firm.

'Opportunity to transform'

The fallout from the war in Ukraine, however, remains a threat as it has driven up prices for wheat and other key agricultural products, sparking fears of famine in some countries.—AFP



The oil industry is a key to Nigeria's growth. **PHOTO: AFP**

Business confidence rises in Italy despite dip in consumer sentiment levels

BUSINESSES in Italy were more confident about the future in June than a month earlier although consumer confidence declined over the same period, the Italian government's statistics body reported Friday.

Italy's national statistics agency (ISTAT) said that the business confidence index for June rose to 113.6 points, up from 111.0 points in May. It was the second consecutive month that the index rose, reaching its highest level so far this year.

However, the survey of consumer sentiment slipped to 98.3 in June, from 102.7 the previous

month.

Both indicators work from a baseline of 100 points from 2010, meaning consumer confidence in Italy is now lower than it was during the baseline year.

ISTAT said the decline in consumer sentiment was widespread, with confidence in the overall economy hit hardest, declining dramatically to 93.9 points compared to 103.6 points in May.

Consumer confidence regarding personal issues declined to 99.8 points, compared to 102.4 points previously. However, faith in the future slipped more modestly, falling to 98.8



Consumer confidence regarding personal issues declined to 99.8 points, compared to 102.4 points previously. However, faith in the future slipped more modestly, falling to 98.8 points from 99.8 points previously. PHOTO: ROMEING.IT/XINHUA

points from 99.8 points previously.

Meanwhile, companies' confidence in the future improved in all sectors, with the manufacturing sector seeing an increase to 110.0 points compared to 109.4 previously, and construction to 159.7 points, up from 158.7.

Confidence in the services sector grew to 109.1 points from 103.8, and in retail sales to 107.2 from 105.8.

Businesses and consumer confidence levels are considered key indicators in helping guide government economic policy, and strategies for private companies.—Xinhua

Nike says will permanently leave Russian market



Nike Inc. made a decision to leave the Russian market. PHOTO: AFP

NIKE said Thursday it will be permanently leaving

the Russian market and will not reopen its stores

after temporarily shuttering them shortly after Moscow started a military campaign in Ukraine.

The US sports apparel giant is among a growing list of Western companies — including McDonald's and Starbucks — that decided to pull out of Russia over Ukraine.

"Nike Inc. made a decision to leave the Russian market... The Nike stores were temporarily closed recently and will not reopen," the company said in

a statement.

It added that its website and app will no longer be available in the country.

Last month, Nike said it will not be renewing licensing agreements with Russian retailers.

Russia's President Vladimir Putin ordered troops into pro-Western Ukraine on 24 February, triggering unprecedented sanctions and sparking an exodus of foreign corporations including H and M, Adidas and Ikea.— AFP

Boeing announces 2022 supplier award

BOEING on Friday announced its top-performing suppliers at the company's 2022 Supplier of the Year event, recognizing nine companies for proactively managing supply chain quality, readiness and health and delivering on Boeing's commitment to advance global sustainability.

Award categories are Supplier Diversity, Outstanding Performance, Alliance, Pathfinder, Supply Chain Visibility, Collaboration, Sustainability, Risk Management and Support & Services, according to the announcement.

For the first time, a Sustainability Supplier

of the Year was awarded to southern California's company Edison Energy to demonstrate the importance of collaboration to drive sustainability across the supply chain, the company said.

"Each Boeing Supplier of the Year delivered impressive performance as our entire

industry collaborated to drive stability through a challenging environment," said William Ampofo, vice president of Parts & Distribution Services and Supply Chain for Boeing Global Services and Chair of Boeing's Supply Chain Operations Council.— Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PROGRESS VOY.NO. (S022)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PROGRESS VOY.NO. (S022)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-6-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

**Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority**

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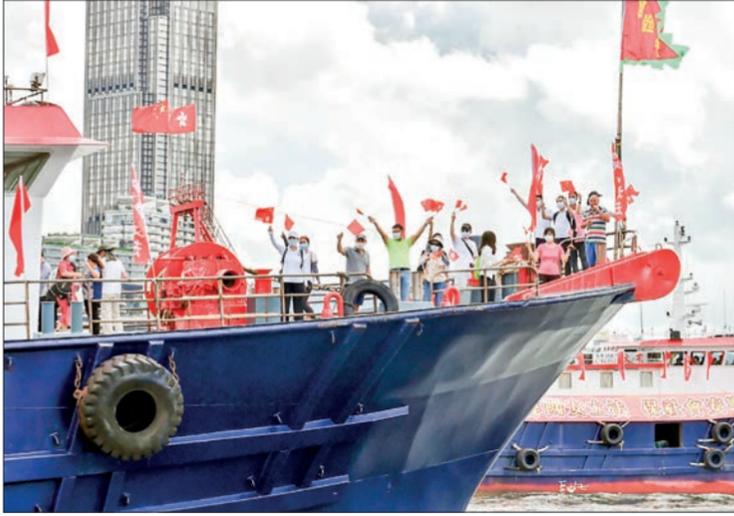
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GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Chinese leader Xi Jinping to attend Hong Kong handover celebration



A fishing boat joins more than 100 others in Hong Kong's Victoria Harbour on 1 July to celebrate the 23rd anniversary of Hong Kong's return to the motherland. **PHOTO: LU BINGHUI/XINHUA/FILE**

CHINESE President Xi Jinping will attend events to celebrate 25 years since Hong Kong's handover to China, state media reported Saturday, with the Communist Party looking to showcase its control over the city after crushing a democracy movement.

If Xi attends in person, the trip would be his first outside of the Chinese mainland since the pandemic began. But state media and Hong Kong officials did not explicitly say whether he would travel to the city or attend virtually.

A trip would also coincide

with the inauguration of Hong Kong's new administration, led by former security chief John Lee.

The Chinese Communist Party places great importance on anniversaries, and Hong Kong's handover presents Xi with an opportunity to emphasize China's authority over Hong Kong after three years of political upheaval there.

Hong Kong is at the halfway point of the "One Country, Two Systems" political model, which promised that the former British colony's way of life would remain unchanged for 50 years after its

handover.

But a national security law imposed after huge and often violent pro-democracy protests in 2019 has seen dissent quashed, with scores of opposition figures arrested in an ongoing political crackdown.

The new Hong Kong government, to be sworn in on 1 July, will be led by Lee, who oversaw the controversial police response to the democracy protests. Lee on Saturday said he was delighted by the news of Xi's attendance and thanked the Chinese leader for his "caring and support" for Hong Kong.—AFP

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Ukraine forces to retreat from battleground city: governor

UKRAINIAN forces will retreat from Severodonetsk in the face of a brutal Russian offensive that is reducing the battleground city to rubble, a senior Ukrainian official said Friday.

The news came shortly after the European Union made a strong show of support for Ukraine, granting the former Soviet republic candidate status, although there is still a long path ahead to membership.

Capturing Severodonetsk, in the Donbas region, has become a key goal of the Russians as they focus their offensive on eastern Ukraine after being repelled from Kyiv following their February invasion.

The strategically important industrial hub has been the scene of weeks of street battles as the outgunned Ukrainians put up a fierce defence.

But Sergiy Gaiday — governor of Lugansk, which includes the city — said the Ukrainian

military would have to retreat.

"They have received an order to do so," he said on Telegram.

"Remaining in positions that have been relentlessly shelled for months just doesn't make sense." The city has been "nearly turned to rubble" by continual bombardment, he

added.

"All critical infrastructure has been destroyed. Ninety per cent of the city is damaged, 80 per cent (of) houses will have to be demolished," he said.

The Ukrainians had already been pushed back from much of the city, leaving them in control of only industrial areas. —AFP



Capturing Severodonetsk, in the Donbas region, has become a key goal of the Russians as they focus their offensive on eastern Ukraine after being repelled from Kyiv following their February invasion. **PHOTO: AFP**

EU might convene extraordinary summit on energy: Italian PM

ITALIAN Prime Minister Mario Draghi said Friday that the European Union (EU) would hold an extraordinary energy summit if natural gas supplies to the bloc were further threatened.

Draghi, speaking to reporters at the conclusion of the EU summit, said that the reduction of gas supplies in connection with the conflict between Russia and Ukraine had caused

the EU "immense difficulties." Draghi said if gas supplies were cut further, the EU would take action to assure uninterrupted energy supplies and tamp down inflationary pressures.—Xinhua

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

France seeks full gas reserves as Russia cuts supplies

THE French government said Thursday it aims to have its natural gas reserves at full capacity by autumn as European countries brace for supply cuts from major supplier Russia with the Ukraine war dragging on.

"We are ensuring the complete filling of our storage capacities, aiming to be close to 100 per cent by early autumn," Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne said.

She added that France will also build a new floating terminal to receive more gas supplies by ship.

"We can do without Russian gas," French Energy Transition Minister Agnès Pannier-Runacher said later on BFM Business TV.

That depends on the floating terminals beginning operating as planned and France filling its strategic reserve, she added.—AFP

Pro-Russian separatists say resistance in key Ukrainian cities 'futile'

THE resistance of Ukrainian forces defending the twin cities of Lysychansk and Severodonetsk — the site of fierce weeks-long fighting — is "futile", a representative of pro-Russian separatists in Ukraine told AFP on Thursday.

"Their resistance is pointless and futile. I think that at the rate our soldiers are going, very soon the whole territory of the Lugansk People's Republic will be liberated," said Andrei Marochko, a spokesman for the army of Lugansk, a pro-Russian breakaway region in eastern Ukraine.

According to Marochko, Lysychansk is practically surrounded as Russian forces and their separatist allies are now controlling the main supply route to the city.

"We have full logistical control," he said, a day after separatists claimed to have encircled the neighbouring village of Zolote and Hirske.

Marochko said Ukrainian soldiers in Lysychansk must retreat, or risk being killed or captured. The same is true for the defenders of Severodonetsk, where the embattled city's defenders are holed up inside the Azot chemical plant, he added.

"If we close in on Lysychansk, the (Ukrainian) group in Severodonetsk will also be surrounded," he said.—AFP

India to roll out e-Passports for citizens to make intl travel safe, easy

THE Central government is working to roll out e-Passports to make easier international travel and enable protection against identity theft and greater data security, the External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Friday.

Reaffirming the government's commitment to improving citizen experience and public

delivery, Jaishankar delivered a message on the occasion of the Passport Seva Divas.

The MEA, along with the Central Passport Organization, has been marking this occasion and renewing our commitment to provide passport and passport-related services to citizens of India in a timely, reliable, accessible, transparent and effi-

cient manner.

"It gives me great pleasure to join all our Passport Issuing Authorities in India and abroad on the occasion of the Passport Seva Divas 2022," he said. The external affairs minister noted that passport services were rendered even during the testing times of the Covid-19 pandemic.— ANI



A general view of the departure hall at Terminal 3 of Indira Gandhi International airport in New Delhi. **PHOTO: PRAKASH SINGH/AFP**

US passes first major gun bill in decades



Activists in the United States have been calling for significant firearms control legislation for almost 30 years. **PHOTO: MARK RALSTON/AFP/FILE**

US lawmakers broke a decades-long stalemate on firearms control Friday, passing the first major safety regulations in almost 30 years, less than 24 hours after the Supreme Court bolstered the right to bear arms.

Gun regulation is a touchstone issue for both conservatives and liberals in the United States that has consumed national politics amid multiple mass shootings in recent years.

The Democratic-led House

of Representatives voted to rubber-stamp a bipartisan Senate gun bill that — while modest — amounts to the first significant piece of legislation to regulate firearms since 1994.

"Let us not judge this legislation for what is not in it, but respect it for what it does. And what it does is save lives. And we are very, very proud of that," the top Democrat Nancy Pelosi said on the House floor.

Fourteen Republicans defied their leader Kevin McCarthy to cross the aisle and approve the 80-page package, which advanced from the evenly-divided upper chamber with cross-party backing late Thursday. That vote came hours after the Supreme Court's conservative majority had struck down a century-old New York law requiring permits for concealed-carry handguns. The gun legislation includes enhanced background checks for younger buyers and federal cash for states introducing "red flag" laws that allow courts to temporarily remove weapons from those considered a threat.—AFP

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

18 migrants die in mass attempt to enter Spain's Melilla

At least 18 African migrants died when a huge crowd tried to cross into the Spanish enclave of Melilla in northern Morocco, according to an update from Moroccan authorities.

Around 2,000 migrants approached Melilla at dawn Friday and more than 500 managed to enter a border control area after cutting a fence with shears, the Spanish government's local delegation said in a statement.

Moroccan officials said late Friday that 13 migrants had died of injuries sustained in the incursion, in addition to five who were confirmed dead earlier in the day.—AFP

Two killed, 21 wounded in Oslo shooting

TWO people were killed and at least 21 others wounded in shootings near bars in central Oslo early Saturday that police were treating as a "terrorist attack".

Police said a suspect had been arrested following the shootings, which occurred around 1:00 am (2300 GMT Friday) in three locations, including a gay bar, close together in the centre of the Norwegian capital.

"The police are investigating the events as a terrorist attack," police said in a statement. A Pride march that was due to take place in the capital on Saturday afternoon was called off following the violence in the normally tranquil city.

"All events linked to Oslo Pride have been cancelled" following "clear" recommendations by police, the organizers wrote on Facebook.—AFP

EU top diplomat bids to 'reverse tensions' on surprise Iran visit

EUROPEAN Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell is set to travel to Tehran on Friday for a surprise visit that could breathe new life into stalled talks on reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

Borrell was due to arrive in the Iranian capital at night to meet Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and other officials, Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said.

"Diplomacy is the only way to go back to full implementation of the deal and to reverse current tensions," Borrell tweeted as the EU confirmed his two-day trip in a statement. News of his previously unannounced visit comes after Amir-Abdollahian said last week that Iran still believed the negotiations could succeed.

The landmark deal has been hanging by a thread since 2018, when then US president

Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew from the accord and began imposing crippling economic sanctions on America's arch enemy.—AFP

The negotiations stalled in March amid differences between Tehran and Washington, most notably due to a demand by Iran to remove its Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps from a US terror list. IRGC's quads are armed with a light machine gun on bracket. **PHOTO: IRGC/AFP**



Chinese leader Xi Jinping to attend Hong Kong handover celebration
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SPORT



Min Htet Aung reaches 70-71 kilo fight Final in Shwe Aung Lan Myanmar Lethwei Tourney

THE first day of the quarter-final match of the Shwe Aung Lan Myanmar Lethwei Tournament was held on 25 June.

“It includes a new generation of boxers, such as the Shwe Aung Lan Lethwei Festival. Participants in this match will only win if they win three matches. They are scheduled to compete in the upcoming Cambodian tournament. The next SEA Games will feature 10 to 12 participants. Training will be limited to the federation.

“The current competitors are from traditional boxing clubs across Myanmar. If the winning result is come out, the match will be a draw. This match will be decided by the scoring system,” said U Wunna of the Myanmar Traditional Boxing Federation.

U Wunna added that the Myanmar Traditional Boxing Federation and Skynet are co-organizing the event to re-establish the traditional Myanmar boxing matches, which have been suspended for about two years.

Yesterday’s traditional boxing match competed under four weight classes. In the first bout, Saw Mu Htaw Gay (STL) and Saw Al Fu (Do Yor Ya) competed in the 60-kilogramme (quarter-finals). At the beginning of the fourth round, Saw Mu Htaw Gay fell and had to rest. Saw Al Phu won and advanced to the semi-finals.

Hein Tun Aung (Shwe Thaton) defeated Thant Zin (Taw Win Ayar) in the fourth round of 60-kilo (quarter-finals).

Next, Nakat Min (Zwekapin Myay) beat Ko Ko Aung (STL) in the 63.5-kilo (quarter-finals).

In the other 63.5-kilo (quarter-finals), Kyar Thway beat Zwe Yar by points.

In the first match of the 67-kilo (quarter-finals), Saw Yay Htoo (STL) beat Saw Min Min (Shwe Thaton). In the second match of the 67-kilo (quarter-finals), Ko Naing beat Hanthawady.

Next, Min Htet Aung reached the final of the 70-71 kilo fight (semi-finals) after beating Phoe La Pyae (Zarni Thway). The Shwe Aung Lan Myanmar Traditional Boxing (Myanmar Lethwei) Tournament was hosted by Skynet and was not only a local programme but also an annual event for traditional Myanmar boxing, to attract more and more international interest in Myanmar Lethwei and develop the traditional martial arts.

The wrestlers are traditional boxers from all over Myanmar, competing with the new generation of state and regional gold medallists and champions.

The semi-finals will be held on 3 July and the finals will be held on 10 July. The tournament is featuring 26 bouts, including four weight classes and two challenging bouts. — TWA/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.

Yangon United beat Myawady FC 2-0 in MNL opener

YANGON United celebrated a 2-0 win over Myawady United in the opening match of the Myanmar National League 2022 season at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon yesterday.

Yangon United, the most successful team in the MNL competition, got a good result at the beginning of the first season and got a full three points.

Myawady, that was allowed to return to MNL, tried to get a good result in the opening match but lost.

Yangon came out with youth players as the team has not recruited any foreign players and some strong players have left the team.

David Htan and Thiha Htet Aung, who returned to the team, were used from the beginning of the match and Kyaw Min Oo was used as a substitute in the second half.

Yangon team was able to put pressure from the begin-

ning of the match and young striker La Min Htwe scored the opening goal in the 13th minute.

After conceding the goal, the Myawaddy team improved and made threats.

However, only Yangon scored another goal and new player Htet Phyo Wai, who joined the team at the beginning of this season, scored the second goal in the 37th minute.

In the second half, the Myawaddy team increased their attacking power to get equalizers but Yangon goalkeeper Phone Thitsa Min was able to defend.

Yangon also had at least three more chances to score in the second half, but 2-0 was enough for Yangon United to get three points.

Hanthawady United will take on Ayeyarwady United at Thuwunna Stadium at 3 pm on 26 July. —Ko Nyi Lay