

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.

Yangon University, Mandalay University and NSA must be top of the nation as well as involved on the list of the world's best universities: Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing hears the report on academic and management measures of the Naypyitaw State Academy in Zabuthiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 1 July 2022

SELECTED arts and science subjects, economics, law, social, sports and medical subjects will be given to students at NSA, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in inspecting the construction of Naypyitaw State Academy (NSA) in Zabuthiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting hall, Union Minister for Construction U Shwe Lay and Union Minister

for Education Dr Nyunt Pe reported to the Senior General on academic and management measures of Naypyitaw State Academy, conferring of degrees, and establishment of relevant departments.

In his speech, the Senior General said **the Naypyitaw State Academy project is being implemented on the site allotted for the former Sports University project which failed to be implemented. More buildings are added to the NSA project to**

have university characteristics.

The Senior General stressed the need to title the departments of the university in line with technical terms and work procedures used by other countries, adding that offspring of service personnel from Nay Pyi Taw and eligible youths from eight townships in Nay Pyi Taw must be selected as students for the NSA. Priority must be given to outstanding students in relevant subjects. As of this

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

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

*Information Team
State Administration Council*

Myanmar strongly rejects unilateral decisions and conclusions adopted during the 110th Session of the International Labour Conference

1. It is observed that the decisions and conclusions against Myanmar were adopted respectively by the 345th Session of the ILO Governing Body and the Committee on Application of Standards during the 110th Session of the International Labour Conference (110th ILC), which was held in Geneva, Switzerland from 27 May to 11 June 2022 without the participation of Myanmar.
2. These decisions and conclusions were derived from the Report of the ILO Director-General on Development in Myanmar and the 2022 Report of the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations. In this regard, Myanmar has already conveyed its observations to the respective bodies of the ILO. The reports contained excessive politically motivated elements rather than labour-related matters and they are not credible. The elements contained in the reports have heavily relied on distorted information and fabricated news, which are deliberately disseminated by the so-called labour activists. Accordingly, it is not surprising to see that the decisions and conclusions are largely politicized.
3. It is also observed that the ILO ignores the essence of the tripartite mechanism in implementing the Decent Work Country Program and in providing technical assistance without engaging the government. The ILO neglects the internationally-accepted principle of providing assistance at the request of the country concerned. The Government of Myanmar has been implementing activities to assist the workers and employers with tripartite nature.
4. The decisions also mentioned the Commission of Inquiry which was established in March 2022 and questioned Myanmar's compliance with the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize Convention, 1948 (No 87) and the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No 29). In reality, there are 2,892 Basic Labour Organizations; 162 Township Labour Organizations; 26 Region and State Labour Organizations; nine Labour Federations; one Labour Confederation in Myanmar with 190,000 members of such labour organizations. It is not true and appropriate to generalize that Myanmar is not upholding its obligations under Convention No 87 because of taking legal actions against a handful number of so-called labour activists for inciting the general public to commit violence and unrest.
5. In Myanmar, the National Complaint Mechanism on Eliminating Forced Labour of Myanmar (NCM) was established in 2020. The report of the ILO Director-General mentioned that since February 2021, the ILO received 13 individual complaints that are subject to further assessment while no cases have yet been submitted to the NCM. It is incomprehensible to learn that the ILO Liaison Office takes one and half years to submit the cases to the NCM. Furthermore, the allegations regarding the use of forced labour were made without verifiable information such as names of individuals, location and date of incidents.
6. For these reasons, Myanmar strongly protests and rejects the decisions and conclusions adopted at the 345th Session of the ILO Governing Body and the Committee on Application of Standards. Myanmar further reiterates its objection against the establishment of the Commission of Inquiry in the absence of the country concerned goes against the ILO Constitution.

*Ministry of Labour
1 July 2022*

32 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 1 July, total figure rises to 613,628

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **613,628** after **32** new cases were reported on 1 July 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **592,568** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll still stands at **19,434** without more casualties.—MNA

EARTHQUAKE NEWS

A slight earthquake of magnitude (3.8) Richter Scale with its epicentre inside Myanmar (about nine miles east-southeast of Kengtung), latitude 21.23°N, longitude 99.73°E, depth (10)kilometres, about ten miles east-southeast of Kengtung seismological observatory was recorded at (17)hr (43)min (47)sec M.S.T on 1 July 2022. — DMH

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

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

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

Yangon University, Mandalay University and NSA must be top of the nation as well as involved on the list of the world's best universities: Senior General



The Senior General inspects lecture halls of the Naypyitaw State Academy and looks into the miniature version of the Naypyitaw State Academy.

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academic year, arrangements must be made for the NSA to admit the third and fourth day class students for teaching. And then, students will be admitted for the first and second years' courses. Students will have a ferry service to attend the university. In the future, they will be admitted to hostels.

Selected arts and science subjects, economics, law, social, sports and medical subjects must be given to students at NSA. Yangon University, Mandalay Universi-

Selected arts and science subjects, economics, law, social, sports and medical subjects must be given to students at NSA.

ty and NSA must be top of the nation as well as involved on the list of the world's best universities.

The NSA must be facilitated with a laboratory and an e-library without fail for enabling students to study higher education. Accommodation must be considered for faculty members, said the Senior General.

The Senior General inspected lecture halls and display of teaching aid at the main building of the NSA and stressed the need to systematically calculate the cost for construction.

In accord with the guidance of the Senior General, the NSA is being built in Zabuthiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area as of April this year, and it is expected to complete construction in April 2024. The NSA is facilitated by lecture buildings, an assembly hall, academic and administrative offices, lecture halls, laboratories and the library. Offspring of government service personnel from Nay Pyi Taw and those of local people will have the chance to learn higher education at the NSA. — MNA

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanma Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

News and Periodicals Enterprise

NSPNC Chairman receives Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair on Myanmar



NSPNC Chair Lt-Gen Yar Pyae meets special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair on Myanmar Mr Park Sokhonn in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

MEMBER of the State Administration Council Union Minister at the Union Government Office (1) Chairman of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee received the delegation led by Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair on Myanmar Deputy Prime Minister of

Cambodia and Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Mr Prak Sokhonn yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting was also attended by Committee's Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naung and Committee Members: Lt-Gen

Min Naing, Lt-Gen Win Bo Shein, Lt-Gen Aye Win and U Hla Maung Shwe.

At the meeting, they discussed the status of the ongoing peace process in Myanmar, further peace processes and difficulties encountered and humanitarian issues. — MNA

Myanmar Gazette

Heads of Service Organizations confirmed and appointed

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

Name	Appointment
(a) U Kyaw Swar Twin	Director-General Department of Basic Education Ministry of Education
(b) Dr Soe Soe Aye	Rector Hpa-an University Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education

2. 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
(a) Professor Dr Kyaw Thiha Professor/Head of Department University of Dental Medicine (Mandalay) Department of Human Resources for Health Ministry of Health	Rector University of Dental Medicine (Mandalay) Department of Human Resources for Health Ministry of Health
(b) U Myint Swe Deputy Permanent Secretary Office of the Chairman Union Civil Service Board	Director-General Office of the Chairman Union Civil Service Board

MIFER's 2022 monsoon tree-planting ceremony held in Nay Pyi Taw

A 2022 monsoon tree-planting event was held at the compound of Office No 1, the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations (MIFER) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning. The occasion was graced by the presence of Union Minister U Aung Naing Oo and Deputy Minister U Than Aung Kyaw and also joined by the permanent secretary, the director-general, the deputy permanent secretary, the deputy directors-general and 75 officers and staff members.

The event was held with the aims of making the workplace green, clean and smart, encouraging the public and service personnel for growing plants and trees and to con-



serve the environment so as to support creating a favourable and sustainable environment.

During the occasion, the Union minister and the deputy minister for Investment

and Foreign Economic Relations planted a sal sapling and a Footstool palm sapling,

respectively. The permanent secretary, the director-general of the Foreign Economic Relations Department, the deputy permanent secretary, officials and staff actively took part in the tree-planting ceremony.

The Union minister and the deputy minister then inspected and inspired the growing of saplings by officials and staff members.

At yesterday's ceremony, about 108 saplings of flowering plants, shade trees and windshield trees such as sal, Footstool palm, Mesua ferrea, Star-flower, Cherry, etc. were planted at the designated places in the park of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations. — MNA

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

NPE celebrates 24th anniversary

THE News and Periodicals Enterprise (NPE) under the Ministry of Information held its 24th anniversary in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the event, Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn said the NPE, which was reconstituted on 1 April 1998 from the News and Periodicals Corporation organized in 1972, reaches 24 years in existence this year. All should review challenges, progress and achievements faced in the past and also consider the ways for the future.

As media is the most important for the country and NPE also plays a key role it should keep carrying out active and innovative services for the interests of the country and people.

He also appreciated the



MoI Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn speaks on the occasion of the 24th anniversary of the News and Periodicals Enterprise in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.



efforts of NPE officials, editors-in-chief, the editorial department, reporters and other relevant personnel.

Then, the video record of

NPE activities was played.

The Union minister presented cash awards to the Myanma Alinn, the Kyemon and the Myanmar News Agency.

Deputy Minister U Ye Tint also gave cash prizes to the Myanmar Digital News and the head office news department and other officials offered priz-

es to relevant departments.

Then, two retired editors-in-chief expressed thanks and the event was concluded. — MNA

Meeting between Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair on Myanmar and 7 NCA-signatory EAOs convened



Seven NCA-signatory ethnic armed organizations-EAOs hold talks with the Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair on Myanmar yesterday.

SPECIAL Envoy of the ASEAN Chair on Myanmar Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Mr Prak Sokhonn and seven Ethnic Armed Organizations-EAOs, which have signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA met yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting was attended by the delegation led by the Special Representative and of-

ficials from the Arakan Liberation Party-ALP, the Democratic Karen Benevolent Army-DKBA, the Karen National Union/Karen National Liberation Army (Peace Council)-KNU/KNLA (PC), the Lahu Democratic Union, the New Mon State Party-NMSP, the Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS), and the Pa-O National Liberation Organization-PNLO.

The Special Envoy addressed the meeting and dis-

cussed issues related to the peace process and humanitarian assistance in Myanmar.

Afterwards, the NCA-signatory ethnic armed organizations-EAOs gave introductory speeches and discussed the views of each group. Dr Naw Ka Paw Htoo, Vice-Chairman of the KNU/KNLA (PC), on behalf of the participating NCA signatories, expressed words of thanks and the Special Envoy made a concluding remark. — MNA

Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair leaves Nay Pyi Taw

MR Prak Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia and special envoy of ASEAN Chair left Nay Pyi Taw in the evening of 1 July 2022. He was seen off at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by U Aung Soe Win, Ambassador, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, U Wunna Han, Director-General of the Protocol Department and U Kyaw Tin Shein, Director-General of the Consular and Legal Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MNA



The Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair on Myanmar is seen off at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport on 1 July.

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SAC information team holds 17th press conference

THE 17th press conference of the State Administration Council's Information Team was held at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the press conference, Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun, SAC's Information Team Leader explained the exercising of the independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy, the policy of world peace and mutual relations, the principals of the peaceful coexistence of the world countries, lasting peace and friendly relations with neighbouring countries, plans conducted under the framework and procedures of ASEAN, attendance of SAC member Union Minister for Defence General Mya Tun Oo to the 16th ADMM held in Cambodia, the holding of the 34th Myanmar-Thai Regional Border Committee meeting in Taunggyi on 28 and 29 June, the discussion of Thai delegation led by Lt-Gen Apichet Suesat



The 17th press conference of the SAC Information Team is in progress in Nay Pyi Taw.

with the SAC Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services in Nay Pyi Taw on 29 June, the working visit of Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair on Myanmar Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Mr

Prak Sokhonn to Myanmar, the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation-related meetings, discussions with eight EAOs between 20 May and 20 June and the coming talks with the remaining SSPP and LDU.

He also highlighted the school attendance in the 2022-

2023 Academic Year, exam passing rate of the 2021-2022 matriculation examination, arrangements to hold the matriculation exam in 2023 for those who failed or did not take tests for various reasons, the reopening of universities and colleges, invitations of the gov-

ernment to the students who arrived in border areas and unsafe locations to continue their education.

He then widely clarified the COVID-19 cases, vaccination cases, efforts of the government not to have cooking oil shortage despite high prices in the global market, local and foreign debts, terrorist attacks of NUG and PDFs, conflicts between Shanni people, KIA and PDF terrorist groups and military operations in Ukarithta.

Union Election Commission Member U Khin Maung Oo also explained with PowerPoint presentations regarding the actions taken against those who participated in conducting voting fraud and lawless actions in the 2020 General Election, field census on voter lists including work plans of the UEC. Afterwards, officials answered questions raised by media outlets and concluded the event. The full interview will be published later, it is reported. — MNA



The local and foreign media personnel record the panel boards displaying photos and documents at the 17th press conference yesterday.

Bangkok-Yangon airlines resume their direct flights



PHOTO- KANU

BANGKOK-YANGON flights such as Thai Air Asia, Thai Smile and Nok Air airlines resumed direct flights at Yangon International Airport on 1 July for convenient aviation transport between the two countries, according to the Yangon Aerodrome Company Limited (YACL).

The first flight FD-252 by Thai Air Asia arrived at Yangon International Airport from Bangkok at 8 am yesterday. The three direct flights will be operated weekly on Monday, Friday and Sunday depending on the number of passengers.

"The Yangon International Airport is coordinating with relevant ministries to ease the Covid-19 restrictions and to welcome more airlines soon.

The resumption of airlines would enhance domestic tourism, domestic airlines and the economy of the State," said Capt Kyaw Soe Hla of the Myanmar Airways International.

India, China, Singapore and some other airlines have already resumed their operations at Yangon International Airport.

In addition, Malaysia, Japan and Korean Airlines will reoperate their flights in the near future.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, flights were suspended at Yangon International Airport on 29 March 2020. International flights were resumed on 17 April 2022 after declining COVID-19 infections in Myanmar. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/GNLM

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, construction materials, raw jade, fuel oil 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, an on-duty team conducted inspections.

Officials confiscated a total of 0.8972 tonne of illegal teak worth K592,152 in Taungup on 28 June. The action was taken under the Forest Law. Similarly, a team led by Myanmar Police Force made inspections and captured a Honda Fit car worth K3 million in Phayagyi township on 29 June under the supervision of the Bago Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force. The action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

In addition, a total of 22.2116 tonnes of teak and hardwood timber at an estimated value of K9,026,672 were captured in Bago and Toungoo districts on 1 July.



Officials confiscate illegal teak, hardwood and timbers.

The action was taken under the Forest Law.

On 30 June, an on-duty team confiscated K23,715,020 worth of tiles which had arrived 71 days before a permit licence was granted despite the same Import Declaration (ID) at the con-

tainer terminal of the Myanmar International Port (Thilawa) and K775,000 worth of electronics that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) at the Myanmar Industrial Port Container Checkpoint. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

In addition, a combined on-duty team conducted inspections at the Myawady Trade Zone under the Kayin State Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force. They confiscated 500 kilogrammes of barb wire worth K1.2 million without any official documents and the action

was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Similarly, on 1 July, an unregistered X-trail car (approximately K8 million) was captured in Sagaing township, and the action was taken under the Export and Import Law. Afterwards, 28 gallons and three litres of illegal fuel oil (approximately K359,200) were captured in Kalay township, and the action was taken under the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law. In addition, a combined team led by the Myanmar Police Force seized 110 kilogrammes of uncut jade from a vehicle heading from Lonekhin village to Nantyar village. The action was taken under the Myanmar Gemstone Law.

Therefore, 15 arrests (approximately K47,122,044) were made on four consecutive days from 28 June to 1 July, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee.— MNA

Drugs seized in Mohnyin and Mongmit townships



An arrestee is seen along with seized drugs.

DRUGS were seized in Mohnyin and Mongmit townships, Myanmar Police Force stated.

A combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force examined a bag that was taken out by Kyaw Zin Thant from the bus stop in Nyaungpin village of Mohnyin township according to information and captured 18 kilogrammes of opium at 7 pm on 27 June.

In addition, the Myan-

mar Police Force stopped and searched a motorbike driven by Zaw Shan accompanied by Ma Khin Mya Lwin and seized 19,500 stimulant tablets on the Mongmit-Mabein Road near the 7th-Mile Kyauktaung village in Mongmit township at 10:45 am on 29 June.

The suspects are prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.— MNA

Traffickers sentenced to jail for human trafficking

THE Muse District Court sentenced three people to ten years imprisonment with labour and announced one woman as a fugitive for their role in trafficking people to China on 29 June.

The victims Ma ..., aged 21, from Hlinethaya Township and Ma..., aged 17, from Shwepyitha Township were convinced that they would earn K1,000,000, gold and cell phones if they were to marry the Chinese man, by Naing Naing Lwin (aka) Ko Naing, Ma Aye Aye Khaing and Ma Thaw Thaw from Hlinethaya

Township of Yangon Region.

The traffickers made copies of the fake Letter of recommendation and household list for them and escorted them to Muse to sell them to China, together with Ma May Thi Oo from China and arrested by the Police Force.

The suspects were prosecuted at the Muse Myoma police station under Sections 28(A), 26(B), and 32 of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law. Similarly, Yangon's North District Court sentenced a woman to 10 years imprisonment with labour under Sections 24/32

of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law on 29 June.

The victim Ma ..., aged 21, from Hlinethaya Township of Yangon Region, was sold to the Chinese man by Daw Wah Wah Soe from Hlinethaya Township of Yangon Region. The suspect forced the victim to marry a mentally disabled man and exploited financial benefits.

The suspect was prosecuted at the Hlinethaya Myoma police station under Sections 24 of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law.— MNA

Over K620 mln worth of drugs seized in Tachilek

ACCORDING to the Myanmar Police Force, various kinds of drugs worth over K620 million were confiscated in Tachilek Township of Shan State (East).

On 27 June, a combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force examined a motorcycle heading from Parkway Village to Loidawkham Village, driven by Arr Kyo according to information at the Loidawkham Village Bridge in Tachilek Township, Shan State (East) and seized 2,000 stimulant tablets.

The team continued to search for the drugs at a house of Arr Sor, located in the rubber

farm of Sanglu Village in Tachilek Township, according to further information and seized 1.496 million stimulant tablets worth over K620 million, 0.68 kilogramme of heroin, 0.9 kilogramme of metham-

phetamine and 0.7 kilogramme of ketamine at noon. Police are investigating, and the suspects are prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, it is learnt.—MNA



Arr Kyo is seen along with seized stimulant tablets and a motorbike.

OPINION

Initiate all works in human society with cooperative essence

HUMANS cannot live alone, and humans must cooperate with each other in doing everything, especially in livelihoods to earn income for themselves as individuals and their families. Cooperative is based on activities of cooperation among the people to each other as well as one another for ensuring safety, security, sufficiency, solidarity, solving problems and so on. Thanks to cooperative efforts, all the work can be accomplished in a smooth process. Hence, all the persons need to taste the fruits of cooperative measures for their interests.

Although each person cannot do something alone through individual strength, many persons working in concert can easily implement assignments to have greater success. It can be identified as cooperative nature.

Likewise, cooperative societies need to join hands with each other in lasting their existence. Only if they can do so will they serve the people as well as their members forever. If so, the cooperative societies will build a better world as part of honouring and memorizing Robert Owen, the father of the cooperative movement.

inspired by the cooperative values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity, and solidarity and the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others, is building a better world.

In Myanmar, various strata especially manufacturing organizations, production workplaces, and agriculture and livestock farms form themselves as cooperative societies to initiate the enhancement of the interests of the people and focus on the increase of production. Most cooperative societies in Myanmar are operating agricultural and livestock farming businesses to raise the products.

These societies need technical assistance and market occupation for their lasting. Mostly, cooperative societies based on agriculture and livestock farms require inputs such as fertilizers in addition to agricultural techniques, loans and feedstuffs. Only when prices of inputs are down, will their production cost decline. Consequently, the consumer can use the products at fair prices.

As such, people need to cooperate with each other in doing something. Likewise, cooperative societies need to join hands with each other in lasting their existence. Only if they can do so will they serve the people as well as their members forever. If so, the cooperative societies will build a better world as part of honouring and memorizing Robert Owen, the father of the cooperative movement.

Let Us Grow Older with Happiness

By Yin Nwe Ko

IN A restaurant at Pan Pacific Hotel, Yangon, a group of aged people gathered one day. They were the ex-students and ex-teachers from Bassein (Patheingyi) Arts and Science College (now it is Patheingyi University). They would have breakfast once a week. They do not need to pay the charges for the meal. The donor is also an ex-student who lives in Pyaw, Bago Region. It is interesting how he treats them every week. He is a wealthy man and saves countless numbers of cash in a private bank. The bank, in return, let him serve two guests in a restaurant they arranged for 3000 lakhs of saved cash every. You can guess how much cash he has saved there as there are always about seven or eight guests every week.

This week, the group including me and two ex-teachers of BASC were at the table in the restaurant. All of us were the age around 68 or 70 and our teachers were a few years older than we were. In other words, we all were aged people who were thinking about death. After the meal, while having a chat, one of my friends started talking about agism which was based on his experience. Then, the conversation became alive, and one of the ex-teachers who taught English in Thailand for 18 years discussed being aged. He said being aged can never be postponed and it is a thing that should be accepted happily.

He was a well-educated person holding a Master's Degree and could give us a detailed, reasonable and acceptable discussion. He said, "In our culture, youth — having perfect, wrinkle-free skin, being cool, and fashionable — is celebrated. Absorbing these cultural messages can lead us to feel worried, stressed, or sad about ageing. As soon as we see the first blemish, we may start trying to fix it. We may colour our hair, or do whatever we can to hide the signs for as long as possible. Yet, no matter what we

do, deep down we all know that growing older is inevitable."

He continued, "Negative attitudes towards age are common in Western societies. The World Values Survey, analyzed by the World Health Organization, looked at attitudes towards the elderly in all age groups and found that the lowest levels of respect were reported in high-income countries. We may have subconscious negative beliefs about ageing that are not only hurtful to others but can impact our own wellbeing, too.

He pointed out, "Research published in *The Journal of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences* found that people with a negative view of ageing report lower levels of life satisfaction. They are also more likely to be hospitalized or to die young. What can we learn from cultures that do value the elderly? Ancient civilizations, like the pagans, worshipped a triple goddess. They recognized three different life stages of women - the maiden, the mother, and the crone. The crone was the last stage, after menopause. The crone represents wisdom and counsel, valuable skills that are of huge benefit to the young.

According to therapist Dr Linda E Savage, author of *Reclaiming Goddess Sexuality*, the crone years are a time of - giving back to society the cumulative wisdom of the years. Many women have an urge to speak out, to organize others. It is often crone energy that leads to changes being made in society. As the crone woman moves further into her life path, she feels the urge to teach others and cultivate her passions. It can be the most productive time in women's lives. - Another more positive impression of the elderly is found in Native American cultures.

Older generations are respected, and known as the 'Wisdom Keepers'. It is typical for elders to receive people's full attention when they speak. Wrinkles and stretch marks are



seen as signs of wisdom, rather than flaws. As people get older, they may experience a slowing down, and a reassessment of values and ways of living. However, this doesn't mean that they lose their usefulness as human beings. Far from it. With more time to focus on what matters, people can hone their purpose, and spend time doing what brings them joy.

In the book, *Our Wisdom Years: Growing Older with Joy, Fulfilment, Resilience, and No Regrets*, Psychologist Charles Garfield tells how a hip injury forced him to slow down and reassess his values. After a lifetime of achievement and constant busyness, his injury allowed him more time for reflection. Garfield considers the later years of life to be ones in which the elderly can listen to their calling - something they've always wanted to do but hadn't had the time before."

Our teacher paused for a while and sipped a cup of green tea. We waited for the interesting experience he had learned. However, one of my friends seemed somewhat dis-

agreeable with our teacher's explanation and came into the conversation. His opinion was not strange as he also viewed being aged and infirmity as an undesirable one. As infirmity, pain, and loneliness are inevitably faced by everyone, a person should leave the world before he or she did with them.

Our teacher listened to his view and never responded continuing, "Later life is far from unproductive but is a time when the opportunity to slow down and consider life can make choices and actions more meaningful and rewarding. Instead of considering old age to be dominated by body and mind falling apart, Garfield sees it as the time when the 'fruit' of our being ripened."

Garfield says: "What happens next after the flowers are gone, is the point of it all. The fruit within us ripens invisibly then; the sweet essence of ourselves that we're here to cultivate at this time of life. Our goal now isn't achievement or success for its own sake. It's to tend to this fruit, our wisdom, our fascinations, our kindness."

A positive attitude towards our later years can allow the self to come into full fruition.

However, the body's deterioration may be a reminder that death is always drawing closer, and part of the problem may be Western attitudes towards it. We tend to think of it as something taboo that we shouldn't talk about. Avoiding talking about death can mean that negative feelings prevent us from enjoying the later years to the fullest. There is much inspiration we can take from other cultures' attitudes towards ageing and dying.

The man who came into conversation said nothing about the cultures' attitudes towards ageing and dying. He frequently nodded his head and so did the other people in the group as we heard about the agism with the new aspect of the outside world. Our traditional view on 1. Birth, 2. Old age, 3. Revelation, and 4. Death is simple. Being aged is not an enjoyable one. However, the opinion of some people in the world is different from our tradition.

Our teacher kept his ex-

planation on. "In *This Party's Dead: Grief, Spilled Joy, and Spilled Rum at the World's Death Festivals*, author Erica Buist processes her father-in-law's sudden death by visiting death festivals around the world. Buist found that this way of carving out time on a yearly basis helped people to deal with their feelings around the death of loved ones, and their own mortality. Death was seen less as something to avoid, and more as a natural process.

In the UK we may not have death festivals, but we do have Death Cafes. This global movement was set up to break the taboo around death by inviting people to get together to drink tea, eat cake, and discuss death. "To share a fear is to remove its power," says Kate Brassington, organizer of a Death Cafe in Portland, Oregon. Taking some time to talk, connect, to focus on others, can mean that fear of death doesn't have to get in the way of your last years of enjoying life. You can find local death cafes on deathcafe.com, or set one up if there isn't one in your area."

to laugh away the taboo of ageing and dying."

Our teacher took a silent break looking at each face of his students whose attention concentrated on his whole explanation or concept about ageing and agism abroad. The smiles gradually dawned upon each countenance. Our teacher seemed to know that we did not accept his explanation about it. He finally continued, "With a little attention to your own attitudes towards ageing and death, you may soon start to feel more joyful about it. You can enjoy the benefits of slowing down and having the time to truly grow into yourself. Perhaps one of the biggest lies of our culture is that our younger years are the happiest. I suspect that, actually, we are hiding a big secret - that the later years are the ones where we get to grow into our innate, joyful natures."

Our teacher had a deep sigh smiling.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 1 July 2022)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and south Bay and moderate elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 2 JULY 2022: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Mandalay, Magway, Regions and Chin State and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Taninthayi Regions and Rakhine, Kayin, Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squall with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach (30-35) mph. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar Waters. Wave height will be about (7-9) feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts and (5-7) feet off and along Rakhine Coast.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Increase of rain in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Rakhine, Kayin, Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2 JULY 2022: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2 JULY 2022: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2 JULY 2022: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon Region and fairly widespread in Mandalay Region.

HEALTH/ENVIRON WORLD

Pipeline proposed to bury European CO2 off Norway



Drax's power station in Yorkshire, UK, equipped with biomass storage tanks and carbon capture capabilities. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ CLARE LOUISE JACKSON VIA SHUTTERSTOCK/AFP**

NORWEGIAN energy company Equinor unveiled Wednesday a project to build a pipeline to transport CO2 produced by in-

dustrial firms in continental Europe for burial offshore Norway. If it goes forward, the pipeline would be one of the largest

carbon capture, transport and storage (CCS) projects in the world. CCS is looked at by busi-

ness as a possible solution for CO2-heavy industries as a way for them to continue operating despite increasingly strict measures to reduce emissions to fight climate change. "The offshore pipeline is planned to have a transport capacity of 20 to 40 million tonnes of CO2 per annum, meeting an emerging need for CCS from multiple European industrial players," Equinor said in a statement. That is the equivalent of emissions from three to six million individuals in Europe.

Belgian energy infrastructure firm Fluxys will operate a terminal in Zeebrugge, which will collect CO2 from ships docking in the port and factories connected by pipeline.

Construction of additional pipelines to other industrial clients is envisaged.

The CO2 will then be transported via a pipeline under the North Sea operated by Equinor,

which will store it permanently under the seabed off Norway.

The project is still in the feasibility stage. Equinor and Fluxys will now work with potential clients and hope to make an investment decision by 2025.

The project has "the potential to enable large-scale decarbonisation of European, carbon intensive industries," said Grete Tveit, Equinor's senior vice-president for Low Carbon Solutions.

Equinor is also involved in a project already underway to store offshore CO2 from a Norwegian cement factory and other industrial facilities.

In its latest baseline report, the United Nations said the world will need to capture and store CO2 from the air and oceans regardless of the rate at which countries succeed at reducing their greenhouse gas emissions.—AFP

California passes sweeping law to reduce non-recyclable plastic

GARBAGE be gone: California Thursday passed an ambitious law mandating reduction of non-recyclable plastic by at least 30 percent in six years, while also placing responsibility on producers.

The measure is meant to tackle the persistent problem of plastic refuse -- in California, about 85 percent of plastic waste ends up in landfills, according to the CalMatters publication.

"California won't tolerate plastic waste that's filling our waterways and making it harder to breathe. We're holding polluters responsible and cutting plastics at the source," Governor Gavin Newsom said after he signed the



Recycling bins are seen at Venice Beach in Los Angeles, California in June 2021. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

law Thursday.

Earlier in the day the bill had passed the state Senate unanimously and had passed the Assembly the day before. The meas-

ure mandates that at least 30 percent of plastic packaging in the state be recyclable by 1 January 2028, and raises the amount to 65 percent by 2032.—AFP

Monkeypox cases in Britain pass 1,000, world total now 3,413

LATEST data released on Tuesday by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) showed the number of confirmed monkeypox cases in Britain has reached 1,076.

According to UKHSA, up to

26 June 2022, there were 1,076 laboratory-confirmed cases in Britain. Of these, 27 were in Scotland, five in Northern Ireland, nine in Wales and 1,035 in England. Since the WHO's previous update on 17 June, there have

been 1,310 new cases reported, with eight new countries reporting cases. It means almost a third of all cases in the world reported since the current outbreak started have emerged in Britain.—AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Aquaculture drives aquatic food yields to new high

THE amount of fish, shellfish and algae caught in the wild and farmed in aquaculture hit a record 214 million tonnes in 2020, the Food and Agriculture Organization said Wednesday.

Driven by a sustained surge in aquaculture, the new record is good news for a world facing price hikes and food shortages due to the war in Ukraine, disrupted supply chains, and inflation.

"The growth of fisheries and aquaculture is vital in our efforts to end global hunger and malnutrition," said FAO director Qu Dongyu.

But overfished oceans, climate change and pollution -- if left unaddressed -- could threaten that potential, the UN agency warned in its 2022 state of the world fisheries report.

"Aquaculture growth has often occurred at the expense of the environment," it said.

"Sustainable aquaculture development remains critical to supply the growing demand for aquatic food." —AFP



People pose for photographs in the empty road on Tower Bridge in central London. **PHOTO: AFP**

Services, manufacturing rebound in China after Covid curbs eased

CHINA'S factory and services activity picked up in June, official data showed Thursday, fuelled by the easing of Covid-19 restrictions in major cities such as Shanghai and Beijing.

The non-manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), a key gauge of activity in the world's second-biggest economy, defied expectations and surged to 54.7 points in June after three months of sluggish performance.

It was the first time since February that the reading was above the 50-point mark sepa-

rating growth from contraction. It sat at 47.8 in May.

"As the situation of domestic epidemic prevention and control continued to improve and a package of policies... to stabilize the economy was implemented at a quicker pace, the overall recovery of our country's economy has accelerated," National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) senior statistician Zhao Qinghe said in a statement.

In particular, business activity in industries severely hit by the pandemic such as rail and air transport picked up in June,

the statement said.

Construction activity also helped fuel the PMI boost.

But the "surprisingly rapid recovery in services" likely reflects a one-off boost from reopening, said Julian Evans-Pritchard, senior China economist at Capital Economics.

Manufacturing PMI rose to 50.2 points in June -- similar to analyst expectations -- up from 49.6 in May. As work resumed after Covid lockdowns, production and demand in the sector picked up and delivery times improved, according to the NBS.—AFP



Business activity in industries severely hit by the pandemic, such as air travel, picked up in June, according to China's National Bureau of Statistics. Passengers check in at Tianjin Binhai International Airport in Tianjin, north China, 28 Jan 2021. PHOTO: XINHUA/LI RAN

ANA to resume flights from Beijing to Narita after 2-year suspension



All Nippon Airways Co. launched a project Wednesday in collaboration with Japanese all-girl pop group AKB48 to push young Asians to travel. PHOTO: KYODO/FILE

ALL Nippon Airways Co. said Thursday that it will resume direct flight operations from Beijing to Narita airport near Tokyo from 11 July, after being suspended for more than two years against a backdrop of the novel coronavirus spread.

ANA will only operate one-way flights from Beijing to Narita

per week on Monday for the time being, as the Communist-led Chinese government has implemented its radical "zero-COVID" policy, including quarantining travellers from abroad.

Under China's tough restrictions, the direct flights from the Chinese capital to the city in Japan's Chiba Prefecture would be

suddenly suspended again if a passenger tests positive for the virus, experts say.

From Narita to Beijing, the passenger planes will be used as cargo carriers. Since early 2020, when the outbreak began, China has suspended all direct flights between Beijing and every city in Japan with the aim of preventing the virus from entering the country. On Tuesday, China decided to shorten the centralized quarantine period for overseas arrivals from 14 days to seven days, given the characteristics of the highly contagious Omicron variant. With China easing some COVID-19 regulations recently as part of efforts to prop up the pandemic-hit tourism industry, it agreed with Japan to restart flights from Beijing to Narita, a source familiar with the matter said.—Kyodo

Museums in Shanghai reopen after COVID-caused closure

ART museums and galleries in Shanghai have been busy getting ready to reopen their doors after three months because of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Yuz Museum has been working with overseas collectors and agencies on the extension of the contract for borrowed artworks appearing in the exhibition of Yoshitomo Nara, the largest showcase of the Japanese artist's work in China. The event, originally scheduled to take place from 5 March to 4 Sept.

According to Sun Yuanchen, director of marketing and business development of the Yuz Museum, about 30,000 "early bird" tickets were sold before the museum was forced to close on 9 March due to the recent COVID-19 outbreak. Al-

though the museum offered a refund, the majority decided to hold on to their tickets.

"As such, we want to extend the exhibition for as long as possible to make sure people can view it," says Sun.

The museum also introduced an online shop selling merchandise linked to featured artists during the lockdown as a means of connecting with art lovers.

"We wanted to reach as many people as possible, so we set a limit for each person to buy no more than two items. Even though no merchandise could be shipped during the lockdown in April and May, the sales were beyond our expectations. The buyers are from all over the country," says Sun.—Xinhua

India reports 17,070 new COVID-19 cases

INDIA reported 17,070 new COVID-19 cases during the past 24 hours, taking the total tally to 43,469,234, showed the data released by the country's federal health ministry on Friday.

A total of 502,150 tests were conducted across the country in the past 24 hours. Besides, 23 deaths due to the pandemic since

Thursday morning took the total death toll to 525,139.

The number of active cases in the country rose to 107,189, a rise of 2,634 during the past 24 hours.

The number of active cases in the country had crossed the 100,000-mark on Thursday after nearly four months.

Meanwhile, the daily positivity rate in the country stood at 3.40 per cent, while the weekly positivity rate had been 3.59 per cent, revealed the federal health ministry. So far, 42,836,906 people have been successfully cured and discharged from hospitals, including 14,413 discharged during the past 24 hours. — Xinhua



People visit Shanghai Natural History Museum in Shanghai, east China, 1 July 2022. PHOTO: XINHUA/FANG ZHE

ECONOMY WORLD

Thailand supports multilateralism, Global Development Initiative



Aerial photo taken on 29 Dec 2021 shows the Thai-Chinese Rayong Industrial Zone. **PHOTO: XINHUA/WANG TENG**

THAI Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Don Pramudwinai reiterated Thailand's support for multilateralism and China-proposed Global Development Initiative (GDI) and the "BRICS Plus" cooperation initiative.

"Thailand supports China's constructive role as a responsible major power in contributing to global peace, stability and sustainable development. The

GDI and Global Security Initiative reflect China's endeavours to realize such goals," Don said in a recent written interview with Xinhua.

Don said Thailand's Bio-Circular-Green Economy Model shares the same key concepts with the GDI, with both focusing on people-centred prosperity as well as a balanced, sustainable and inclusive growth, and there is much the

two countries can collaborate on to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

"Thailand is pleased to have joined the Group of Friends of China's GDI," he said, hoping that "the shared values of openness and inclusiveness will be the building blocks for a more balanced global development partnership."

This came following the High-level Dialogue on Global Development, held via video link last week, during which Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha affirmed Thailand's support for multilateralism, the GDI and China's initiative on formalizing "BRICS Plus" engagement with emerging markets and developing countries.

Don spoke highly of China's leadership in safeguarding multilateralism, saying "practicing multilateralism is the only pragmatic path forward."—Xinhua

US prices high but stable in May, spending slows

A key US inflation measure showed price increases held steady in the 12 months ended in May, while consumer spending growth slowed sharply, a good sign in the battle against soaring prices.

The trend could offer comfort to consumers and central bankers alike, as a sign the Fed's aggressive interest rate strategy is starting to have an impact to quell the fastest surge in inflation in more than 40 years.

The personal consumption expenditures (PCE) price index rose 6.3 per cent compared to May 2021, still high but the same pace as in the prior month, even as it jumped 0.6 per cent compared to April, the Commerce Department reported Thursday.

The index jumped 0.6 per cent compared to April, much faster than in the prior month, but slightly below what economists had projected.

But spending edged up just

0.2 per cent, less than half the increase in April and part of a steady downward drift as consumers pull back amid surging prices.

Buoyed by a stockpile of savings, helped by massive government aid, consumers have been the lynchpin in the rapid US recovery from the pandemic downturn.

But strong demand clashed with global supply chain snarls

and the world's largest economy has been battered for months by a cresting inflation wave, made more painful by the surge in energy prices sparked by the Russian invasion of Ukraine in late February.

Excluding volatile food and energy prices, PCE rose 0.3 per cent in the month, the same as in April, and slowed slightly to 4.7 per cent over the past year, the report said.—AFP



A key US inflation measure showed price increases held steady in the 12 months ended in May, while consumer spending growth slowed sharply, a good sign in the battle against soaring prices. **PHOTO: AFP**

Vaccines, FTAs help boost Cambodia's economic recovery: World Bank

HIGH COVID-19 vaccination rates and free trade agreements (FTAs), namely the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and the Cambodia-China FTA (CCFTA), have been helping boost Cambodia's economic recovery, said a World Bank economic update report released on Thursday. Cambodia's economy will grow by 4.5 per cent in 2022 and around 6 per cent annually for the medium term, the report said. However, rising global energy and food prices are expected to fuel the country's inflation to 7.2 per cent this year, up from 3.5 per cent last year.

The Southeast Asian nation has so far administered

COVID-19 vaccines to almost 15.1 million people, or 94.3 per cent of its 16-million population, and China's Sinovac and Sinopharm vaccines have been widely used in the kingdom's immunization programme.

Buoyed by its high vaccination coverage, Cambodia has resumed all socio-economic activities and reopened its borders to fully vaccinated travellers without quarantine since November last year.

"The government's living with COVID-19 strategy has allowed Cambodia to reopen, enabling economic recovery," Maryam Salim, World Bank country manager for Cambodia, said during the launch of the report.—Xinhua



Cambodian farmers harvest water mimosa, a popular vegetable dish, from a boat at a farm in Phnom Penh on 28 April 2022. **PHOTO: TANG CHHIN SOTHY / AFP**

Colombia's Petro picks experienced economist as finance minister

COLOMBIA'S leftist President-Elect Gustavo Petro on Thursday named an economist with international clout and experience in former neoliberal governments as his finance minister.

Petro, Colombia's first-ever left-wing president, said on Twitter that Jose Antonio Ocampo will oversee his government's goal to "build a productive economy". Ocampo, 69, was executive secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

(ECLAC) from 1998 to 2003, and then served as deputy secretary general of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs until 2007.

He was a minister in two former neoliberal governments of Colombia in the 1990s.

Key among his tasks will be an ambitious tax reform with which Petro intends to narrow the government's fiscal gap and boost social spending by increasing taxes on the rich, who are not happy about the prospect.—AFP

Japan warns on 'interests' after Russia gas project decree

JAPAN'S energy "interests must not be undermined", Tokyo said Friday, after Moscow issued a decree transferring operations of a key oil and gas project to a new Russian company.

Japanese trading houses Mitsui and Mitsubishi Corp own 12.5 and 10 per cent stakes respectively in the Sakhalin-2 project, but the future of their investments appears uncertain after the Russian move.

The decree calls for the establishment of a new Russian operator and requires existing foreign shareholders to apply for the right to participate in the new firm, with Moscow deciding on their inclusion.

Japanese government spokesman Seiji Kihara said Friday morning that Tokyo was "closely examining the impact on liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports".

"Speaking generally, we believe our resource interests must not be



Japanese government spokesman Seiji Kihara said Friday morning that Tokyo was "closely examining the impact on liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports". A liquefied natural gas (LNG) tanker arrives at a gas storage station at Sodegaura city in Chiba prefecture, east of Tokyo. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

undermined," he added, declining to give further comment.

Later Friday, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said the government did not think the decree "will immediately stop LNG imports," on which Japan is heavily dependent.

"We think we need to carefully monitor how the

decree will affect our contract," he told reporters.

Japan's economy minister meanwhile said Tokyo would look into alternative suppliers.

"In the mid-to-long term, we will do everything we can to ensure a stable supply of energy, including through alternative procurement from LNG sup-

pliers other than Russia, buying from the spot market, and reducing demand when necessary," Koichi Hagiuda told journalists.

He said Japan would also look into boosting renewable and nuclear energy, which remains controversial in the country after the 2011 Fukushima disaster.—AFP

Argentina's black market dollar trade: illegal but part of life

IT is hard to come by but ever-present on the mind of average Argentines: the US dollar, whose value relative to the feeble peso is a barometer for an economy in crisis.

"Dollars! Change, change, doooollars!" The cries of unofficial money changers follow tourists, but also locals, down the streets of central Buenos Aires' office district.

It is illegal, but part of life: These "arbolitos" ("small trees," after the "green leaves" they sprout) offer a black market rate about double the official one.

"It is a service to the community... part of the normalcy of the country," one arbolito told AFP on condition of anonymity.

These days one dollar gets its bearer about 236 pesos at the unofficial or "blue rate," instead of 130 at an official currency exchange.

A year ago, the blue

rate was 170 pesos to the official rate of 95.

The peso is Argentina's official currency, but its high volatility means that dollar prices are quoted for big-ticket items from buying property or a car to renting an apartment or getting an expensive medical procedure.

To prevent a hemorrhage of foreign exchange reserves and stabilize the peso, Argentines have been prohibited by law since 2019 from buying more than \$200 in greenback per month.

This, of course, fuels demand, and Argentines — also distrustful of savings accounts — hoard as much of the US currency as they can afford to buy on the streets.

Goods vendor Marcela Leiron said that "like an ant" collects food, she buys dollars, "from \$20 to \$50 per month, as much as I can."—AFP

Europe stocks steady as eurozone inflation hits record high

EUROPEAN stock markets steadied Friday with traders having expected news of record-high eurozone inflation that reinforced expectations of an ECB interest rate hike this month.

On the upside, the haven dollar jumped one percent against the pound on rising expectations of a recession, while oil rebounded on tight supplies.

Eurozone inflation accelerated to another record high in June, official data showed Friday, fuelled by fallout from the Ukraine war.

The EU's Eurostat data agency said annual consumer price inflation in the 19 countries that



Consumer price inflation in the 19 countries that use the euro soared to 8.6 per cent in June, up from the prior record of 8.1 per cent in May. PHOTO: AFP

use the euro soared to 8.6 percent in June, up from the prior record of 8.1 per cent in May.

"Today's figures bolster the European Central Bank's (ECB) intended decision to start raising inter-

est rates at its next Governing Council meeting in July," noted economist Pushpin Singh at research group CEBR.

The ECB stated last month that it will deliver its first interest rate hike

in more than a decade in July to combat inflation.

Eurostat added Friday that core inflation — stripping out volatile components like energy and food — slowed to 3.7 per cent from 3.8 per cent, helping equities to calm heading into the weekend pause.

Earlier Friday, Asian stock markets closed lower after another Wall Street selloff. Data showing US consumers — the backbone of the world's top economy — were growing increasingly reticent about spending dealt a fresh blow, with New York's S&P 500 index suffering its worst first-half performance since 1970.—AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BMC PANDORA VOY.NO. (07/22)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BMC PANDORA VOY.NO. (07/22) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4-7-2022 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIPL 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.

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GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Portugal: Defence spending will meet 2% target if EU funds allow – PM Costa



The prime minister stressed that, during the NATO summit, Portugal reaffirmed that it intends to reach 2 per cent “during the decade”, reiterating that the country “does not like to make commitments that are not certain and secure”. **PHOTO: WIKIWAND/ AFP**

PORTUGAL'S prime minister said on Thursday that Portugal could “speed up convergence” towards the target of 2 per cent of GDP reserved for defence if Community funds were made available, committing only to reaching that target “over the decade”.

“Community resources are currently under discussion, in the framework of discussions [in the European Union] on security and defence policy. If these community resources exist, we can naturally accelerate convergence towards this goal,” António Costa said, in reference to

the target of 2 percent of GDP reserved for defence, assumed by NATO Allies at a summit in Wales in 2014.

The prime minister was speaking at a press conference at the Madrid Exhibition Park, at the end of the summit of heads of state and government of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). Costa said that since 2018 Portugal had clarified “in writing” that the pace of its convergence to “the target set in Wales of 2 per cent of GDP would necessarily be dependent on what is the framework of

available EU funds”.

“In 2018, (...) in the debate for the Multiannual Financial Framework, it was expressly foreseen that there would be a fund for defence. Then, in the final agreement, on the Multiannual Financial Framework, that fund disappeared,” he recalled.

The prime minister stressed that, during the NATO summit, Portugal reaffirmed that it intends to reach 2 per cent “during the decade”, reiterating that the country “does not like to make commitments that are not certain and secure”.—AFP

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

17 dead in southern Ukraine strikes, after Russia quits Snake Island

AT least 17 people were killed and dozens wounded Friday in missile strikes on Ukraine's Odessa region, a day after Russian troops abandoned positions on a strategic island in a major setback to the Kremlin's invasion. The news came after NATO leaders wrapped up a summit in Madrid, with US President Joe Biden announcing \$800 million in new weapons for Ukraine.

“We are going to stick with Ukraine, and all of the alliance are going to stick with Ukraine, as long as it takes to make sure they are not defeated by Russia,” he said. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov compared surging diplomatic tensions to the Cold War, telling reporters:

“As far as an Iron Curtain is concerned, essentially it is already descending... The process has begun.”

There was a glimmer of hope however, when Indonesian President Joko Widodo said he had given Russian President Vladimir Putin a message from their Ukrainian counterpart, Volodymyr Zelensky.

It came after Widodo visited both Moscow and Kyiv. Neither side has revealed what was in the note. Early Friday, missiles were fired at an apartment building and recreation centre about 80 kilometres (50 miles) south of the Black Sea port of Odessa, which has become a strategic flashpoint in the conflict.—AFP

Russia says it has more than 6,000 Ukrainian POWs

RUSSIA is holding more than 6,000 Ukrainian prisoners of war, the defence ministry said Thursday, a day after the two sides swapped imprisoned soldiers.

“The total number of Ukrainian troops captured or who surrendered is more than 6,000,” Igor Konashenkov, a spokesman for the ministry, said in a statement.

On Wednesday each side received 144 detained soldiers.

Ukraine said 95 of its troops who returned home were those who fought in the Azovstal steel plant in the port of Mariupol, one of the war's bloodiest battles.

The Ukrainian defence ministry said most of the Ukrainian soldiers had been seriously wounded.

Konashenkov said of the troops returned to Russia: “near-



Members of the Ukrainian Territorial Defence Forces attend tactical, combat and first aid training course during Russia's military invasion launched on Ukraine. **PHOTO: AFP**

ly all of those freed are wounded or gravely wounded. They are receiving necessary medical care.”

His statement marked Rus-

sia's confirmation of the swap, a day after the pro-Moscow separatist leader in east Ukraine, Denis Pushilin, had done so.—AFP



A complete halt to Russian natural gas supply to Europe as soon as July 2022 would drive European gas prices 68 per cent higher by this winter. **PHOTO: NIKOLAY DOYCHINOV / AFP**

Russian gas crisis prompts Uniper bailout talks

ENERGY giant Uniper has entered into bailout talks with the German government as dwindling Russian gas supplies to Europe drove prices for the fuel higher.

“Uniper entered into discussions with the German government on possible stabilization measures,” the energy company

said in an ad-hoc statement late on Wednesday.

The options available to the group included extending further credit lines from the public lender KfW or an equity investment in Uniper.

Russian energy company Gazprom reduced deliveries via the Nord Stream pipeline to

Germany by 60 per cent in mid-June, attributing the move to a delayed repair.

The German government has dismissed Gazprom's technical justification for the cut, instead labelling it a “political” decision in retaliation for the West's support for Ukraine after Moscow's invasion.—AFP

Hong Kong celebrates 25th anniversary of return to motherland

CHINESE President Xi Jinping arrived in Hong Kong by train on Thursday afternoon.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, will attend a meeting celebrating the 25th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to the motherland and the inaugural ceremony of the sixth-term government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) on 1 July.

Xi will also inspect the HKSAR.

Hundreds of Hong Kong young people and members of the public waved flags and flowers at the welcome ceremony featuring the performance by the Hong Kong Police Band and lion dancing. Xi congratulated the Hong Kong compatriots and extended his best wishes on the occasion marking the 25th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to the motherland.



Chinese President Xi Jinping and his wife Peng Liyuan wave to the welcoming crowd upon their arrival in Hong Kong, south China, 30 June 2022. Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, arrived in Hong Kong by train on Thursday afternoon. PHOTO: XINHUA/XIE HUANCHI

Xi stressed that as long as "one country, two systems" is upheld unwaveringly, Hong Kong

will surely have an even brighter future and make new, greater contributions to the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.—Xinhua

US Supreme Court lets Biden end Trump-era immigration rule

THE US Supreme Court on Thursday gave President Joe Biden's administration the green light to end the so-called Remain in Mexico policy instituted by Donald Trump as part of his hardline approach to immigration.

Under the policy, some non-Mexicans who entered the

United States illegally across the southern border were sent back to Mexico to wait while their immigration cases played out in court, rather than being detained or provisionally released.

Since the beginning of his term, Biden has been trying to wind down the policy as part of

what he claims is a more humane take on immigration.

Advocates for migrants said the policy exposed asylum-seekers to dangerous conditions in Mexico as overwhelmed US courts slowly work through a backlog of cases.

Thursday's ruling in favor of the Biden administration was split 5-4, with Chief Justice John Roberts joining fellow conservative Brett Kavanaugh and the court's three liberal justices in the majority.

Roberts, who authored the majority opinion, argued that federal immigration law allows the executive branch to return asylum seekers to Mexico, but does not force it to do so.

"Congress conferred contiguous-territory return authority in expressly discretionary terms," the opinion states.

Biden's attempt to terminate the policy, instituted by Trump in 2019, was challenged by a group of Republican-governed states led by Texas. —AFP



View of signs during a protest of advocates and migrants from the Alianza Migrante migrants organization against US President Biden's administration migration policies and the possible use of robot dogs to patrol the border due to the visit of US ambassador in Mexico Ken Salazar to Tijuana, near US-Mexico border fence, in Playas de Tijuana, Baja California state, Mexico, on 14 February 2022. PHOTO: GUILLERMO ARIAS/AFP

Women battle for seats in PNG parliament

WOMEN are fighting to get at least one seat in Papua New Guinea's male-dominated parliament when voting opens Monday in a mountainous, forest-clad land scarred by gender-based violence.

Prime Minister James Marape is fending off a challenge from his predecessor Peter O'Neill to lead this resource-rich but poverty-struck Pacific Island for the next five years.

Whoever wins, the new leader will need to cobble to-

gether a coalition government, say analysts.

Women, though, are hoping just to have a voice in the 118-seat parliament.

In the nearly 50 years since Papua New Guinea gained independence from Australia, only seven women have ever secured a seat, and not one in the last election in 2017.

"A lot of us really feel like we stand a great chance," said Sylvia Pascoe, one of 142 women among the almost 3,500 candidates in this election.—AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Taliban's reclusive supreme leader attends Afghan clerics' meeting

THE Taliban's reclusive supreme leader Hibatullah Akhundzada showed up Friday at a major gathering of clerics in the Afghan capital called to rubber-stamp the hardline Islamist group's rule over the country.

Akhundzada, who has not been filmed or photographed in public since the Taliban returned to power in August, would address the gathering later, government spokesman Bilal Karimi tweeted.

His arrival, broadcast on state radio, was greeted with cheers and chants including "Long live the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan", the Taliban's name for the country.

Over 3,000 clerics and elders have gathered in Kabul since Thursday for the three-day meeting, and Akhundzada's appearance had been rumoured for days -- although media are barred from covering the event.

He rarely leaves Kandahar, the Taliban's birthplace and spiritual heartland, and apart from one undated photograph and several audio recordings of speeches, has almost no digital footprint.—AFP

FBI adds Bulgarian 'Crypto Queen' to most-wanted list

A Bulgarian woman dubbed the "Crypto Queen" after she raised billions of dollars in a fraudulent virtual currency scheme was placed on the FBI's 10 most wanted list Thursday.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation put up a \$100,000 reward for Ruja Ignatova, who disappeared in Greece in October 2017 around the time US authorities filed a sealed indictment and warrant for her arrest.

The 42-year-old, who is also a German citizen, was behind one of the most notorious scams in the frequently treacherous world of crypto currencies. In 2014 she launched OneCoin, ostensibly aiming to replace Bitcoin as the world's leading virtual money.

Tapping a global network to market the coin to friends and family in exchange for their own payouts, she and co-conspirators pulled in at least \$3.4 billion and possibly over \$4 billion, according to court documents. Officials said that OneCoin was not backed by any secured, independent blockchain-type technology as other crypto currencies are.—AFP

Portugal: Defence spending will meet 2% target if EU funds allow - PM Costa
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SPORT

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

- (a) To enhance production based on agriculture and livestock through modern techniques and strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.

- (b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
- (c) To promote and support local businesses to create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.

3. Social affairs

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

Myanmar to play Brunei today in U-19 ASEAN Football Championship

MYANMAR U-19 boy's football team will take on Brunei U-19 team today in the U-19 ASEAN Football Championship, which is hosted by Indonesia. Team Myanmar match will start at 2:30 pm Myanmar Standard Time while Thailand will play against the Philippines at 4:30 pm and Viet Nam meet host Indonesia at 8 pm.

According to the drawing-lots, Myanmar is placed in Group A with host Indonesia, Viet Nam, Thailand, Brunei, and the Philippines. Meanwhile, Group B sees Malaysia, Cambodia, Timor-Leste, and Laos.

Team Myanmar needs a victory in the opening match as the team is falling into a tough group. A pre-press conference for

the tourney was held on 1 July and coaches from the ASEAN teams attended the event.

"Our team had nine weeks of training time for this competition. As we all know, Group A is a tight group and we have to face good teams. But I will do my best," said Head Coach U Soe Myat Min of team Myanmar during the press conference. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Week 2 of Myanmar National League to commence today

THE Week-2 matches of the Myanmar National League 2022 will begin today, according to the football officials. The tournament is being held five days a week. The second match will be played on 2 July between Hanthawady United and Maha United.

On 3 July, Ayeyawady United will take on Rakhine United and Myawady FC will face ISPE FC on 4 July. On 6 July, Shan United will play with GFA and Yangon meets Yadanabon on 7 July. Hanthawady is likely to win

again as they face Maha United, and defending champions Shan United are likely to overtake relegated GFA. In Week 2, it is difficult to predict the ability of the teams and unexpected results can come from teams struggling to win.

In the previous Week, Yadanabon FC, Shan United, ISPE FC, Hanthawady United and Yangon United got three points but Rakhine United, Myawady FC, GFA FC, and Maha United faced losses. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Amazon secure Champions League rights in UK for first time



Amazon has secured Champions League rights in the UK for the first time. **PHOTO: POOL/AFP**

AMAZON has secured live rights to the Champions League in the UK for the first time from 2024. The technology giant will have the first pick of matches on a Tuesday, with BT Sport retaining the rest of the rights to the Champions League, Europa League and Europa Conference League.

The UK deal is understood to be worth around £500 million (\$607 million) a year to UEFA

for the three seasons between 2024 and 2027 — an increase of 20 per cent on the current cycle.

Amazon already holds the UK rights to 20 Premier League matches per season. "The addition of UEFA Champions League football is a truly momentous moment for Prime Video in the UK," said Alex Green, the managing director of Amazon Prime Video Sport Europe. A new format to the Cham-

pions League will begin in the 2024/25 season with the competition expanded to 36 teams and all clubs playing eight group games. The "Swiss Model" revamp will see the number of games in the competition overall increase from 125 to 189.

UEFA is aiming for total broadcast revenue from this cycle to reach \$5 billion per season, up from the current \$3.6 billion a year.—AFP

Players twist for glory at the table football World Cup

DRESSED in athletic wear and using special hand grips for extra power, more than 1,000 players of table football are taking part in a World Cup this week in western France.

At stake in the six-day competition are bragging rights for the champions, as well as an opportunity for organizers to press for the game to be recognised by more countries worldwide as a sport.

Traditionally played in bars or outdoors, and often accompanied with alcohol, cigarettes and shouting, table football is usually seen as a bit of fun.—AFP



The International Table Soccer Federation (ITSF) has targeted the use of technology and digital connectivity to aid its growth. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**