

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.

Some 200 cargo ships arrive at Yangon ports in past four months

TERMINALS in Yangon Port received 199 cargo ships in the past four months (January-April), according to the Myanma Port Authority.

The shipping lines are increasing their services to facilitate exports and imports, and 54 cargo ships carrying many containers are to enter Yangon Ports in May.

The number of cargo ships entering Yangon Ports stands at 49 in January, 48 in February, 50 in March and 52 in April.

The turnaround time at the ports was designated as approximately three days, under the guidance of the Myanma Port Authority and the cooperation of the ocean liners, exporters and importers. Therefore, the arrival of the ships has increased.

Myanma Port Authority and Yangon inner terminals are providing services to ensure the fast and reliable cargo handling and withdrawal of the containers in order for trade flow to return to normality.

Earlier, the larger ships have draft problems preventing their sailings on the Yangon River. The draft extension is up to 10 metres with the new navigation channel accessing



The photo shows some of the overseas-going merchant vessels in the Yangon River.

to inner Yangon River.

The value of Myanmar's maritime trade between 1 April and 6 May of the current financial year 2022-2023 soared to US\$2.2 billion. The figure reflected an increase of \$491 million as against last FY. Sea trade rose from \$1.7 billion during the year-ago period,

the statistics of the Customs Department showed.

Exports through sea trade were valued at \$916 million and imports registered at \$1.307 billion.

Myanmar exports agricultural produce, fishery products, minerals, livestock, forest products, finished industrial

goods, and other products, while it imports capital goods, consumer goods, and raw industrial materials.

The country currently has nine ports involved in sea trade. Yangon Port is the main gateway for Myanmar's maritime trade and includes the Yangon inner terminals and

the outer Thilawa Port.

Yangon inner terminals and the outer Thilawa Port received over 152 larger vessels of above 30,000 DWT (Deadweight tonnage) during the five months (February-June) 2021 after the draft limit had extended up to 10 metres. — Htet Myat/GNLM

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Re-invitation for basic education staff who are absent from duty

THE State Administration Council is implementing nine objectives, including a social goal of national health and higher education, and is working hard to restore education to the next generation of young people in order to develop the nation's human resources.

For the education of the new generation, basic education schools across the country were reopened on 1-11-2021, and higher education universities/colleges were reopened on 12-5-2022. Basic education schools for the 2022-2023 Academic Year will be reopened on 2-6-2022.

Basic education is very important in the education of the new generation of young people who will be the leaders of the future. So those students can learn fully and to make the teachers/students ratio balance, experienced teachers are needed.

In order to resume their teaching duties for the next generations, teachers and educators who have been away from their duties due to intimidation, participation in peaceful protest, or worry, and teachers and educators who have been prosecuted under staff discipline are informed to report to the relevant Township Education Offices where the schools are located or the nearest Township Education Offices in their current area of residence to file an appeal voluntarily by 31-5-2022.

Among the basic education staff who are absent from duty due to various reasons, those who are absent without leave due to various reasons, those under the investigation, and those who file an appeal, shall be considered as unpaid leave for the period of non-duty and will be re-employed except for those who have committed serious crimes.

State Administration Council
Information Team

Five million doses of Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine donated by PRC arrive in Yangon



China-donated 5 mln doses of Sinopharm vaccine and 2 mln syringes. **PHOTO: KANU**

THE first batch of five million doses of Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccines arrived at Yangon International Airport by Sichuan Airlines yesterday morning as the People's Republic of China will donate ten million doses of COVID-19 vaccine to Myanmar.

Counsellor Mr Tan Shufu of the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar and embassy officials

handed over the vaccines and Director-General of the Department of Public Health under the Ministry of Health Dr Myint Than, Assistant Secretary from the Ministry of Health Dr Ye Min Htwe and officials from Yangon Region Public Health and Medical Services Departments received the vaccines.

Five million syringes for

Sinopharm vaccine doses will arrive on 19 May and further five million syringes plus five million doses of COVID-19 vaccines on 28 and 29 May respectively.

Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccines will be stored at the Central Vaccine Depot in the Public Health Department, Mindhamma Road in Yangon and will con-

tinue to be distributed to regions and states with the help of the Tatmadaw (Air) and Myanmar Airways. — Nyein Thu(MNA)



The donation ceremony is held at Yangon International Airport.



A local in Toungoo Township, Bago Region gets jabbed against COVID-19.

COVID-19 vaccine drive continues in various states, regions

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

COVID-19 vaccine is administered daily to target groups regardless of race or religion, including Buddhist monks and nuns, local people over the age

of 40, students, religious leaders, prisoners, people with disabilities, ethnic armed groups, people with chronic diseases, people in IDP camps and over 12-year-old students, respectively.

Yesterday, doctors and nurses from public hospitals, medical teams from the Tatmadaw, relevant healthcare workers in collaboration with volunteers gave COVID-19 vaccines to 5,076 local people from fourteen townships in Mon and Kayin States, 210 people from Tamway Township

in Yangon Region, 6,285 people from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, 7,930 people from fourteen townships in Rakhine and Chin States, 42,188 people from seven districts in Mandalay Region, and 210 people including monks from Toungoo, Htantabin and Bagon townships in Bago Region, respectively.

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

14 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 18 May, total figure rises to 613,182

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **613,182** after **14** new cases were reported on 18 May 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **592,130** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll still stands at **19,434** without more casualties.

COVID-19 vaccine is being injected to those of priority groups in regions and states for prevention and control of the disease. Up to 17-5-2022, a total of **31,164,885** people have been vaccinated. Of them, **24,803,256** people have been fully vaccinated and **6,361,629** people have yet to get the second shots and **1,829,588** people have received booster doses.—MNA

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)

State Administration Council's Information Team to hold press conference 14/2022

THE Information Team of the State Administration Council will hold a press conference (14/2022) at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw at 1:00 pm on 19 May. Local and foreign media personnel are invited to the press conference, it is learnt. — MNA

14th Press Conference of Information Team to be broadcast live on 19 May

THE 14th press conference of the Information Team of the State Administration Council will be broadcast live on MRTV HD, MRTV News, MWD, MWD Variety, MITV, MOI Website, MOI YouTube, MRTV Website and aired live on Radio Myanmar, Thazin FM, Mandalay FM, Pyinsawady FM, Shwe FM, Padamyar FM, FM Bagan and Cherry FM starting from 1:00 pm on 19 May, at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information. — MNA

Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations attends ASEAN Economic Ministers' Special Meeting

UNION Minister U Aung Naing Oo of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations participated in the ASEAN Economic Ministers' Special Meeting, which was held on 17 and 18 May 2022 in Bali, Indonesia.

The Meeting was chaired by Mr Pan Sorasak, Minister for Commerce, the Kingdom of Cambodia and attended by ASEAN Economic Ministers, the ASEAN Secretary-General, Senior Economic Officials (SEOM) and representatives from ASEAN Countries.

At the Meeting, the Ministers discussed and exchanged views on ASEAN's collective efforts and strategies to address regional and global issues, mitigate their potential adverse impacts on ASEAN's economy and strengthen ASEAN's centrality in the economic integration.

The Ministers acknowledged the United States and the European Union's intention of their engagement with the Indo-Pacific region and reiterated the importance of strengthening and maintaining ASEAN Centrality in ASEAN's engagement with its external partners through ASEAN-led mechanisms such as the ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific (AOIP).

With regard to the implementation of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partner-



The MIFER Union Minister poses for the documentary group photo of the ASEAN Economic Ministers' Special Meeting in Bali, Indonesia.

ship Agreement, the Ministers urged the remaining countries to expedite the ratification of the Agreement which is to be a significant contributor to post-pandemic economic recovery efforts.

The Ministers shared the information on preparing for the WTO 12th Ministerial Conference which will be held on 13 June 2022 in Geneva. They also shared views on deepening understanding of the complex dynamics between trade-related environment and climate change measures.

In addition, the Ministers discussed the potential industrial-based projects in ASEAN as a collective effort to deepen ASEAN economic integration,

enhance intra-ASEAN trade and investment and strengthen supply chain connectivity.

In his statement, the Union minister highlighted the impacts of global economic stagnation on ASEAN's economy due to the unprecedented global challenges particularly the Russia-Ukraine conflict, while ASEAN is attempting economic recovery efforts in the post-Covid-19 pandemic. In addition, he also explained the efforts of the State Administration Council (SAC) to address political issues and mitigate geopolitical risks. He also underscored the crucial role of support and understanding of ASEAN Member States to stabilize political and economic situations in

Myanmar. He also stressed Myanmar's commitment to actively participate in the regional economic integration programme under the ASEAN Economic Community Pillar.

During the Meeting, the Union minister met Mr Pan Sorasak, Chairman of the ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting, Minister for Commerce, the Kingdom of Cambodia and discussed matters to strengthen bilateral economic cooperation, finalize the Investment Promotion and Protection Treaty and continue further discussions for the Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement between Myanmar and Cambodia.

The Union minister also

had a separate meeting with Mr Muhammad Lutfi, Minister for Trade of Indonesia, and discussed strengthening cooperation under the implementation of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement. At the meeting, the Union minister requested to liberalize Indonesia's current export ban on palm oil, particularly exemption for Myanmar and promote Myanmar agricultural exports to the Indonesian market.

The Union minister also met Mr Samsem Samalapa, Deputy Minister for Commerce, Thailand, and frankly discussed matters to enhance bilateral trade and also to facilitate the Baht/Kyat direct payment at the Thai-Myanmar border. In addition, the Union minister had a meeting with Mr Bountheung Douangsavanh, Deputy Minister for Industry and Commerce of Lao PDR and explored the promotion of bilateral economic cooperation and border trade.

On the evening of 17 May, the Union minister joined the dinner hosted by Mr Muhammad Lutfi, together with ASEAN Economic Ministers.

The permanent secretary of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and officials also attended the meeting. —MNA

Coordination meeting on implementation of ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community held in Nay Pyi Taw



MoRAC Union Minister U Ko Ko addresses the coordination meeting to implement the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

THE Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture organized a coordination meeting on the implementation of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, Union Minister U Ko Ko said that the work on the 2025 ASEAN Roadmap will be completed in 2025, and a High-Level Task Force will be formed to draw up the vision of the ASEAN Community beyond 2025 so the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community pillar should review whether the cooperation work between the ASEAN community pillar or socio-cultural community pillars in considering core elements are perfect.

The Mid-Term Review-MTR 2020 was also submitted with the support of relevant organizations that attend today's meeting. The work processes are the halfway to achieving the goals of 2025 and so the ASEAN Community should express achievements at the end of 2025. The perfect data would gain in 2025 by applying experiences and challenges in drafting the previous MTR.

Then, officials of the Department of Historical Research and National Library, ASCC, senior officials and invitees of the Myanmar ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community working group discussed matters of their relevant sectors. — MNA

MoALI discusses with UMFCCI-affiliated Orgs for export growth, public-private partnership in each sector

UNION Minister U Tin Htut Oo for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation met officials of the associations affiliated with the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) on 17 May at Yuzana guesthouse on Natmauk Street, Bahan Township, Yangon, regarding public-private partnership in each sector for an increase in agricultural production and export growth.

First and foremost, the team led by the Union Minister discussed matters concerning competitive market conditions, the use of post-harvest technology and machines to meet export quality criteria, contract farming system, infrastructure development and loan access for the long term and a short term in the warehousing operations, with officials with the Myanmar Corn Industrial Association.

Next, the Union Minister and the Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association highlighted the matters related to edible oil market prospects and development of oil milling businesses, partnering with farmers to produce sunflower and peanut seeds, full operation of edible oil mills, investment to upgrade the oil machine and food safety measures in production.

Then, the Union Minister received officials from Myanmar Rice Federation in the afternoon and talk about domestic consumption and rice export condition, foreign exchange rates and market prospects, increase in farmers' benefit on account of the current paddy price, high fertilizer demand for the coming monsoon paddy season and meeting requirements of agri-inputs.

After that, the Union minister and officials of the Myanmar Fertilizer, Seed and Pesticide Entrepreneurs Association



Discussions between the MoALI Union Minister and the UMFCCI-affiliated organizations in progress.

focused on quick processing for import licence of agricultural inputs (fertilizers), quality aspects and prevention of counterfeit fertilizers.

Later, the Union minister and officials concerned arrived at the Agricultural Museum in

Kandawgyi Park. The Union minister instructed officials to fulfil the need to disseminate the agricultural knowledge based on different displays and aims between museums and exhibitions, conserve artistic artefacts and provide an

accessible place for the people for education and relaxation, together with the experts.

The team led by the Union minister inspected displays, museum booths and nursery shops of seedlings and floral plants. — 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.

Online e-Visa (Tourist) application to be resumed on 20 May

THE online e-Visa (Tourist) application will be allowed starting on 20 May to have a harmonized tourism with the neighbouring countries, according to the statement of the Ministry of Immigration and Population.

The online e-Visa (Business) service for foreign investors and entrepreneurs was resumed on 1 April.

The online e-Visa (Tourist) applications will be accepted beginning on 20 May. The ministry resumes e-Visa services suspended for over two years

due to the outbreak of COVID-19 by discussing with a local company.

Moreover, the international flights were also permitted to resume their operations in line with COVID-19 health rules, and the country receives regular tourist arrivals now.

The GDP contribution to Myanmar's tourism was six per cent before the COVID-19 outbreak, according to the World Travel and Tourism Council. The online e-Visa (Tourist) can be applied at <https://evisa.moip.gov.mm>.



One of the travellers with a tourist visa is seen at Yangon International Airport.

The online e-Visa (tourist) system is developed in 100

countries and e-Visa (Business) in 55 countries, and was

suspended on 23 March 2020. — TWA/GNLM

92 fuel oil price surges in Yangon



A car is seen getting its tank filled up with fuel oil at one pump station in Yangon.

IN the local fuel oil market, the price was high about K90 per litre of Octane 92 and K10,000 per gallon of Octane 92, according to the Fuel Import, Storage and Distribution Supervisory Committee on 18 May.

On 13 May, fuel oil prices in Yangon were K1,995 per litre of Octane 92 and K2,045 per litre of Octane 95, while it was K2,090 per litre of 92 and K2,150 per litre of 95 on 14 May. The price of Octane 92 was high about K90 per litre and K105 per litre of Octane

95 when the prices were compared with those in the period between 13 and 18 May. The price of Octane 95 is nearly K10,000 per litre and more than K10,000 per litre of Octane 95.

"Most taxis use Octane 92 and the prices have not been reduced for four days. Passengers do not pay upcharges despite high fuel oil prices. It won't be more than K500/1,000. It is difficult to ask for much more taxi fares. Passengers know the distance and they can't pay high

fares. We suggest they ride in a gas taxi. Some passengers know fuel oil prices are high so they don't bargain," said taxi driver Ko Okkar from Insein. It was K2,260 per litre of diesel and K2,285 per litre of premium diesel yesterday. The fuel oil prices are fixed in respective townships and the prices are different from K100 to K340.

The committee released the prices based on the 4 May reference retail prices of the MOPS. — TWA/GNLM

"Without paid leave" regarded for teachers absent from duty upon submitting appeals

THE Information Team of the State Administration Council released a statement re-inviting the basic education staff who are absent from their duties.

The statement said efforts are being made to develop the human resources of the country and to restore normal learning opportunities for new generations to ensure their higher education.

For the education of new generations, the basic education schools across the country were reopened on 1 November 2021, and higher education universities/colleges were reopened on 12 May 2022.

Similarly, the basic education schools for the 2022-2023 Academic Year will be reopened on 2 June 2022. Therefore, skilled teachers are needed for the basic education students.

The teachers who have been away from their duties due to intimidation, participation in peaceful protest, and teachers who have been prosecuted under staff discipline can report to the relevant township education offices where the schools they served their duties are located and to the nearest relevant township education offices to submit an appeal not later than 31 May, it said.

Among the basic education staff who are absent from their duty, those who are absent without leave due to various reasons, those under the investigation, and those who file an appeal, shall be considered as without paid leave for the period of non-duty and will be re-employed except for those who have committed serious crimes. — TWA/GNLM

MADB eases repayment period for farmers

MYANMA Agricultural Development Bank has announced that it extends the repayment period for agricultural loans for the farmers until 30 September.

The bank granted more than K200 billion in COVID-19 funds to over 5,500 farmers and extended the repayment period to 31 March and now to 30 September.

The loans were granted in 187 townships of Nay Pyi Taw and 14 regions/states. The current repayment period has been extended

to 30 September, with the aim of allowing farmers to continue using the COVID-19 loan as agricultural capital to increase their income.

If the farmers can submit their detailed work processes, they can get up to a K70 million loan at low-interest rates. The payment terms are three years for short-term loans and 5 years for long-term loans at a five per cent interest rate. The loans for the farmers are supervised by the Ministry of Planning and Finance and the Department of Rural Development. — TWA/GNLM

MoC facilitates daily imports of essential anti-COVID-19 equipment

THE Ministry of Commerce oversees the importation of necessary medical supplies and anti-COVID-19 devices critical to the COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities through trading posts, international airports and seaports.

A total of 2.5 tonnes of masks were imported via International Port and a company imported 14 tonnes of masks via the Chinshwehaw border checkpoint yesterday.

Officials from relevant departments cooperate to facilitate and expedite standard operating procedures for the import process.



A lorry is seen transporting imported anti-Covid devices to where necessary.

It is reported that the Ministry of Commerce is coordinating with relevant departments to prevent COVID-19, and

contact persons for enquiries can be reached through the Ministry's Website - www.commerce.gov.mm. — MNA

Public Notice

1. THE Anti-Corruption Commission has established corruption prevention units within ministries to effectively curb corruption.
2. The ACC used SMS on the mobile phone to ask the public who seek services at an office of the department of the relevant ministries via Short Code No "1111" for feedbacks, including the Public Feedback Programme-PFP.
3. According to the PFP, the right replies of the citizens via Short Code No "1111" will provide the quality of services of each department and the requirements for corruption prevention to be fixed.
4. Therefore, the public should make a reply to the questions of the ACC and corruption prevention units of the ministries via SMS at Short Code No "1111" and such doing is a supportive measure for PFP, and the people are urged to cooperate in the operations.

Anti-Corruption Commission

ANSWER "1111" to fight against corruption

ANSWER "1111" to improve services

LET'S work together to eliminate corruption towards prosperity

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, consumer goods, unregistered vehicles seized

SUPERVISED by the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee, action is being taken under the law against illegal trades across the country.

The inspection team led by the Forest Department under the Yangon Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force made the inspections on 16 May. They captured 4.5544 tonnes of illegal timbers at an estimated value of K1,203,888 from a 12-wheel truck (approximately K35,000,000) totalling K36,203,888, at the milepost 48/6 on the Yangon-Pyay Road of Taikkyi Township. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

In addition, on the same day, the on-duty inspection

team at the container terminal of Myanmar International Port (Thilawa) captured K29,935,000 worth of a Nissan Caravan car and K6,646,250 worth of a Honda car, which were not taken out over four years after the opening of the Import Declaration. The action was charged under the Customs Law.

Similarly, they seized consumer goods at an estimated value of K19,164,000 that were not declared in the Import Declaration on 17 May at the container terminal of Myanmar International Port (Thilawa), and the action was taken under the Customs Law.

Moreover, on the same day, the Myanmar Industrial Port

Container Checkpoint confiscated K4,044,000 worth of consumer goods, that were not declared in the Import Declaration. The action was charged under the Customs Law.

On 18 May, the combined team led by the Bago Region Forest Department seized K936,970 worth of 7.7860 tonnes of illegal timbers in Yoma protected forest in Yedashe Township of Toungoo District. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

Police confiscated three unregistered vehicles at an estimated value of K19,000,000 at the milepost 5/0 on the DaikU Township-Sittoung Road and milepost 4/3, 4/4 on the Yan-



Officials confiscate illegal timbers.

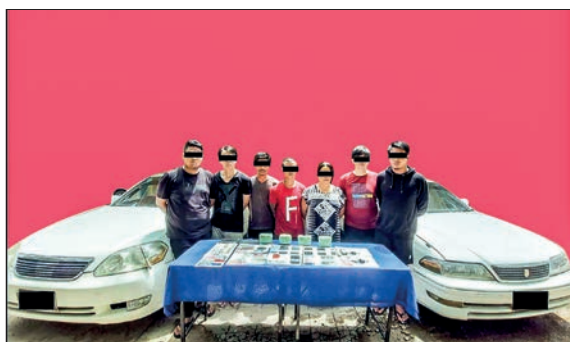
gon-Mawlamyine Road on the same day. Police opened a case file under the Export/Import Law.

Afterwards, the Forest Department team seized K410,100 worth of 1.3670 tonnes of illegal teak in Katha Township and K1,335,698 worth of 19.0814 tonnes of illegal timbers in

Pathein, Nyaungdon and Myaungmya townships. The action was charged under the Forest Law.

Therefore, on 16, 17 and 18 May, 15 arrests were made (an estimated value of K117,675,906), according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

Drugs seized in Bhamo, Myeik, Kamayut townships



A combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force stopped and searched a motorcycle driven by Sai Ohn Myat and Ma Htu

Noo (alias) Daw Htoo on board near the Bhamo-Mansi Road, Sihe Village-tract, Bhamo Township at 6:00 pm on 17 May.

During the inspection, 0.198 kilo of heroin and 5,850 stimulant tablets were seized from the motorcycle.

At 1:30 pm that day, Myo Naing (alias) Bai Gyi was found suspiciously in front of a garage on the Industrial Zone Road, Myeik (South) Ward, Myeik Township, and 2,000 ecstasy tablets were seized from him.

On 14 May, Anti-Drug Police

Force stopped and searched a Mark II car driven by Min Ko Ko and followed by Kyaw Lin Htet (alias) Kayin Lay and another Mark II car driven by Paing Thet Kyaw (alias) Paing Gyi and followed by Sai Ye Htet (alias) Thar Thar, Ye Marn Aung (alias) Ye Marn, Min Thant Htoo (alias) Panda at Narnataw Street, 7th Ward, Kamayut Township.

During the inspection, 3,600 ecstasy tablets were seized from the vehicle driven by Min Ko Ko and K144 million worth of ecstasy together with

104 USD and 210 baht were also found on the vehicle driven by Paing Thet Kyaw (alias) Paing Gyi.

According to the investigation, Ma May Than Soe (alias) Soe Soe, who was involved in transporting ACT pills, was arrested at Building No. (34), 3rd Floor, Montleksaunggon (North) Ward, Yangyiaung Road, Sangyoung-Township at 8 pm on the same day.

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

LOCAL BUSINESS

Corn prices edge up on strong foreign demand

THE prices of corn are escalating on the back of strong foreign demand, said U Min Khaing, chair of the Myanmar Corn Industrial Association.

Myanmar's corns are demanded by the Philippines, India and Viet Nam at present and the sea trade is used for shipment. China and Thailand are also purchasing them through cross-border trade.

"The price of corn has risen for now. The export demand elevated the price a bit," he said.

The prices of corn touch a high of K1,050 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) in the Yangon market, which is higher than those recorded in the pre-

vious years, he added

The FOB prices were approximately US\$320-340 per tonne, according to the Yangon Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Bayintnaung).

The foreign demand and Kyat depreciation against foreign currencies (US dollar, Baht and Yuan) drove the corn prices up, U Min Khaing continued.

Myanmar exported 2.3 million tonnes of corn to foreign trade partners in the 2020-2021 financial year. The majority of them were sent to Thailand and the remaining went to China, India, Viet Nam and the Philippines.

Thailand gives green light to corn imports through Maesot



Myanmar's corns are demanded by the Philippines, India and Viet Nam at present and the sea trade is used for shipment. China and Thailand are also purchasing them through cross-border trade.

under zero tariff (with Form-D), between 1 February and 31 August.

Thailand has granted tax exemption on corn imports between February and August.

However, Thailand imposed a maximum tax rate of 73 per cent on corn import to protect the rights of their growers if the corn is imported during the corn season of Thailand.

Myanmar shipped over 2.2 million tonnes of corn in the 2019-2020FY, with an estimated value of \$360 million, according to the trade data of the Ministry of Commerce.

At present, corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions. Myanmar has three corn seasons- winter, summer and monsoon. The country produces 2.5-3 million tonnes of corn every year. — NN/GNLM

Manageable-scale sheep and goat farming increases Pwintbyu locals' income



The manageable-scale sheep and goat farming increases the income of residents as they fetch good prices in selling in Pwintbyu Township of Magway Region.

THE manageable-scale sheep and goat farming increases the income of residents as they fetch good prices in selling in Pwintbyu Township of Magway Region, according to farmers from Lalphila village of Kanthagyi village-tract in Pwintbyu Township.

The sheep and goats can be tended in the fields or the yards at the low-cost feed. They breed two at least per year and

sometimes four.

"I have been breeding sheep and goats together with my agricultural work to increase our incomes for one year and a half. We can tend them in the field so it does not cost a lot for their feed. But we have to relocate the yards depending on weather conditions. The main point is that we can take them to the places where have plenty of food for them. They breed two

lambs and one in their belly. Sometimes, they breed up to four. The government allows sheep and goats to trade in local or foreign markets and so we can operate the manageable scale sheep and goat farming with our agriculture work and it increases our incomes," said breeder U Maung Lwin from Lalphila village of Pwintbyu Township. — Hlaing Win Lay (Pwintbyu Myay)/GNLM

Naungtaya tea at low prices hurts tea farmers

THE transaction of tea leaf is slack and prices also drop in the Naungtaya region of Pinlaung Township of the Pa-O Self-Administered Zone of southern Shan State, according to a tealeaf farmer.

"The price of Shwephemelut tealeaf is K5,200 per viss in maximum and K4,800 per viss in minimum. The sale of Shwephe tealeaf is still slack," said a tea leaf merchant of Naungtaya Town.

"The price of every product is high and the price of tea leaf is between K3,500 and K4,000 per viss currently. Although the production cost is not high, the labour cost is high. We have to give K600 per viss and K5,000 for

daily wage worker. One worker can pluck only seven visses of tealeaf the whole day. The fee is not good and so no one pluck the tealeaf," said a tealeaf farmer from Hteeyee village.

Four visses of wet tealeaf produce one viss of dried tealeaf and farmers sell them at K5,200 per viss this year and the market price of dried tea leaf is between K3,500 and K4,000.

The prices do not cover labour costs and transport charges for tealeaf farmers and they also face hardships due to high commodity prices. The tealeaf factory in Naungtaya buys the wet tealeaf at K1,000 per viss and now at K800. — Khun Aung (Naungtaya)/GNLM



Four visses of wet tealeaf produce one viss of dried tealeaf and farmers sell them at K5,200 per viss this year and the market price of dried tealeaf is between K3,500 and K4,000.

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanmar 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

OPINION

Be grateful to teachers, idols of students

EVERY arena is constituted by trainers and trainees, teachers and pupils, instructors and learners, and so on. Whatever it may be, both layers from all arenas are inter-related in efforts for improving their relevant subjects.

Generally, teachers and pupils are interconnected in academic measures. The teachers need to teach the pupils while improving their skills sharper and sharper. If so, they will have to share their knowledge with the students so that those students will accumulate their general knowledge. So, a saying expresses that an instructor must be a perpetual student.

The study on any issue is endless. Knowledge can be dug into various arts and science subjects. But, people are different in capacity to accumulate the knowledge because of their endeavours, arrange their willingness to learn and enhance the capacity for dynamic efforts. As such, their capacity levels will be differing from each other. Some people are sharpening in all aspects by easily solving the problems and promptly making correct decisions.

Hence, the teachers need to train their pupils to be skilful in all arenas. Their teaching measures may be higher but it shows their goodwill and empathy for their students to become outstanding youths. Their training may be strong but it may be a test for students to have endurance against the burdens. Consequently, those students will have the skills to easily solve the problems in the tight corner based on their experiences obtained in the strong teaching and training. How precious it is!

The students should not misunderstand their teachers and trainers for strengthening exercises. Indeed, the energy of the teachers runs out as exhausted as the students. The students should understand the physical and mental efforts of their teachers in sharing knowledge with them. Hence, both teachers and students need to culture a united spirit in exploring the new arena of knowledge in order to benefit society.

The teachers with endeavour and goodwill in teaching will never be left in the society. One day, society will recognize and honour them. Their endeavours and goodwill will benefit them. In their generations, they will have the chance to take pride in steering their pupils not to derail from their goals. Truly, teachers pave the way for pupils for their lifetime achievements. These are unforgettable gratitude of teachers. Hence, all the pupils will be grateful to their teachers forever.

■

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Logistics, Decarbonization, and Hydrogen? – the Post - COVID World as seen by Japanese Companies

By Suzuka YOSHIDA

JBIC (Japan Bank for International Cooperation) conducts an annual questionnaire survey every year for Japanese companies active overseas, entitled "Survey Report on Overseas Business Operations by Japanese Manufacturing Companies". The results were announced in April. From the contents, we can see the medium- to long-term policy of Japanese companies investing overseas. "Myanmar" was one of the keywords.

Myanmar ranked 16th in the medium-term promising countries, although it was on the negative list.

This JBIC survey was conducted by asking 965 Japanese companies expanding overseas and having at least one factory overseas to select keywords. Since the survey was mainly for companies that already have a track record overseas in the manufacturing sector, it can be said that the results are quite realistic. Myanmar is a news keyword in a negative sense on current affairs. Myanmar is the only coun-

try that has been named singly and attracted many companies' attention to it.

Looking at another subject, Myanmar is ranked in this year as **Promising Countries for Overseas Business over the Medium-term (Next 3 years)**

Ranking	Countries		Number of Companies		Percentage Share (%)	
	2021	2020	(total)	2021	2020	2021
1	1	China	162	168	47	47.2
2	2	India	131	163	38	45.8
3	5	US	113	98	32.8	27.5
4	3	Vietnam	105	131	30.4	36.8
5	4	Thailand	77	111	22.3	31.2
6	6	Indonesia	67	96	19.4	27
7	7	Philippines	31	37	9	10.4
8	9	Mexico	30	32	8.7	9
9	8	Malaysia	27	34	7.8	9.6
10	12	Taiwan	19	18	5.5	5.1
11	11	Germany	17	20	4.9	5.6
12	15	Korea	16	12	4.6	3.4
13	16	Brazil	13	11	3.8	3.1
14	14	Australia	12	14	3.5	3.9
14	16	Singapore	12	11	3.5	3.1
16	10	Myanmar	10	25	2.9	4.5
16	13	Bangladesh	10	16	2.9	2.2
16	19	Russia	10	8	2.9	2.2
16	20	Turkey	10	7	2.9	2
20	28	Canada	7	3	2	0.8

well when asked about countries/regions that are considered promising in the medium term (about the next three years). Last year it was 10th, but this year it has dropped to 16th. It is because it was regarded as the government that violated human rights in the coup d'état on 1 February 2021, and the investment motivation was chilled. Another reason for not raising the rank is that the business in Myanmar did not yet generate the expected profits. On the contrary, it ranks 8th in the long-term (about 10 years) promising countries. From this, it can be seen that Japanese companies think that Myanmar will become a normal country within 10 years.

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Featured news keywords

China, India and the United States have become promising countries in both the medium and long term. JBIC sees that the United States may outperform India in 2022, as India's vote rate has dropped considerably and the United States has conversely gained support for semiconductors and automobiles to increase its vote rate.

Looking at the keywords that Japanese companies are paying attention to in their overseas business strategies, it is clear why

they seemed "promising."

In the questionnaire survey, some keywords were presented in terms such as "COVID", "Logistics disruption", "Supply Chain", "Energy", "Regional economic cooperation", and "Current affairs". It turns out that there are companies that take some subjects negatively. "Decarbonization," "DX: digital transformation," and "EV shift," which have been researched in Japan in recent years due to the spread of SDGs, are regarded as positive. It is interesting that Japanese companies are paying attention to "Hydrogen" as new energy, although Hydrogen energy is not so popular in the United States and EU. It can be said that it is a peculiar keyword in Japan.

Strengthening Logistics and Decarbonization are key to Economic Recovery

Japan is in a geographical condition in a way of its location far from the United States, Europe, the Middle East and even ASEAN countries. Therefore, both exports and imports from

Japan emit a large amount of carbon during the transportation process. This is a structural concern for Japanese companies aiming for "Decarbonization." In addition, the COVID hit countries all over the world, reducing the availability of all companies and stagnating the supply of parts. When all the parts are not available, problems should occur in the manufacturing process. Thus, the supply chain was disrupted. Companies around the world have also been hit by a shortage of semiconductors. To solve these problems, Japanese companies will need to invest and manufacture in other countries.

Where will Japanese companies invest in the medium to long term? In addition to the above challenges, there is no doubt that they will invest in countries where security, energy and human rights are protected.

Source:
https://www.jbic.go.jp/en/information/press/press-2021/pdf/1224-015678_4.pdf

Positive/Negative Topics for Japanese Manufacturers

		Negative	Positive
Current Affairs	One Belt and One Road	-34	19
	Myanmar	-52	1
	Brexit	-37	0
	US-China Tensions	-255	17
Regional Economic Cooperation	Japan UK EPA	-4	31
	Japan EU EPA	-8	53
	RCEP	-6	53
	CPTPP	-10	81
Energy	Battery	-9	86
	Solar Power Generation	-16	93
	Ammonia	-4	28
	Hydrogen	-13	85
Industrial Trend	EV Shift	-76	164
	Smart City	-5	46
	Semiconductor Shortage	-195	37
	Desital Transformation	-8	164
Supply Chains	US China Decoupling	-70	13
	Decarbonization	-95	159
	Localization of supply Chains	-19	86
	Human Rights	-42	13
COVID-19	Green Recovery	-67	82
	Vaccination	-91	86
	Infection Cases	-240	22

Side effects from COVID-19 booster shots more common than from regular doses, study says



Mark Turney, 66, a kidney transplant patient, registers to receive his Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 booster shot at Hartford Hospital in Hartford, Connecticut on 24 August 2021. PHOTO: JOSEPH PREZIOSO / AFP

WHILE COVID-19 vaccines can protect people from severe illness and death, the protection begins to wane after initial vaccine doses, making booster shots necessary for maintaining immunity.

However, it is also known to have some symptom-like side effects — mostly ranging from minor to moderate. Some people have side effects from the vaccine, which are normal signs that their body is building protection. These side effects may affect their ability to do daily activities, but they should go away

in a few days. Some people have no side effects, and allergic reactions are rare. Researchers report that side effects appear to be stronger from COVID-19 boosters than from initial doses of the vaccine, according to a new study published in JAMA Network Open.

Electronic health record (EHR)

This cohort study was conducted using electronic health record (EHR) data from December 2020 to October 2021 from the multistate Mayo Clinic Enterprise. Participants in-

cluded 47,999 individuals who had received 3-dose COVID-19 mRNA vaccines. Data were analyzed from September through November 2021. Significantly increased reporting was found for low-severity adverse events such as fatigue, lymphadenopathy, nausea, and headache.

After getting the booster shot for COVID-19, you might experience some temporary symptoms such as a sore, swollen arm where you got the shot. You might run a fever and experience body aches, headaches and fatigue for a day or two. Chills and swollen lymph nodes can

also occur. Nausea, diarrhoea and vomiting are other common side-effects for booster doses.

These symptoms do not mean you are sick. They mean that your immune system is responding to the shots and building up protection against the coronavirus. Usually, the side-effects are mild, and should not stop you from getting a booster shot.

It is not exactly the vaccine which causes the side effects, but rather an indication of your immune system reacting to the vaccine. Immune system reactions are usually signs that our

immune system is active and fighting an infection, whether from the actual disease or as reacting to the vaccine.

Side effects through booster shots

According to experts, the side effects through booster shots may be stronger because the immune system reacts more strongly to succeeding vaccine doses. However, the absence of side-effects does not indicate a poor immunogenic response.

It is worth noting that the symptoms after a booster are similar to the symptoms of COVID-19. This is because our immune system is trying to build immunity against COVID-19.

To minimize these side-effects, it is recommended to take good care of your health by eating a balanced diet, staying hydrated and having adequate sleep. People are advised to avoid alcohol, smoking and junk food post their booster shot. It is advised to talk to a doctor before taking any over-the-counter medicine for any pain and discomfort experienced after getting vaccinated.

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SOURCE: ANI

SCI/ENVIRON/NATIONAL WORLD

Reference wholesale prices for Union territory, Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay and reference retail prices for cities of regions and states

19-5-2022

Kyat/Litre

Fuel (Retail Price)	Yangon	Mandalay	Nay Pyi Taw	Bago	Magway	Dawei	Monywa	Patheingyi	Myittha	Sittway	Hpa-an	Mawlamyine	Lashio	Taunggyi	Loikaw	Haka	Kengtung
92 Ron	2,210	2,255	2,250	2,220	2,255	2,275	2,265	2,240	2,335	2,350	2,245	2,255	2,290	2,290	2,295	2,515	2,430
95 Ron	2,280	2,330	2,325	2,290	2,325	2,300	2,350	2,335	2,315	2,405	2,420	2,320	2,335	2,365	2,365	2,585	2,605
HSD (500 ppm)	2,200	2,245	2,240	2,205	2,245	2,265	2,260	2,230	2,345	2,340	2,235	2,245	2,280	2,280	2,285	2,500	2,690
HSD (50 ppm)	2,225	2,275	2,270	2,235	2,270	2,295	2,290	2,260	2,375	2,370	2,265	2,275	2,310	2,310	2,310	2,530	2,725
HSD (10 ppm)	2,225	2,275	2,270	2,235	2,270	2,295	2,290	2,290	2,260	2,375	2,370	2,265	2,275	2,310	2,310	2,530	2,725

Fuel (Wholesale Price)	Yangon	Mandalay
92 Ron	2,105	2,181
95 Ron	2,175	2,252
HSD (500 ppm)	2,097	2,165
HSD (50 ppm)	2,122	2,194
HSD (10 ppm)	2,122	2,194

Remarks: (1) It's calculation is based on MOPS price.

(2) If people are not satisfied with purchase of fuel, they may safely send complaints to telephone numbers of the committee as follows: -

067-409881 and 09-699611116, 067-411129, 09-440433533

Fuel Import, Storage and Distribution Supervisory Committee

End of the line nears for NASA InSight Mars lander



People watch the landing of NASA's InSight spacecraft on the planet Mars on television screens at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, California, 26 November 2018. **PHOTO: FREDERIC J. BROWN/AFP/FILE**

AFTER some four years probing Mars' interior, NASA's InSight lander will likely retire this summer as accumulated dust on its solar panels saps its power.

The lander will, however, leave behind a legacy of data that will be tapped by scientists around the world for years to come, helping to improve our understanding of planet formation, NASA said, while announcing on Tuesday the imminent end to InSight's science operations.

Equipped with an ultra-sensitive seismometer, InSight re-

corded more than 1,300 "marsquakes," including a magnitude 5 quake on 4 May, the largest so far.

But around July, the seismometer will be turned off.

The lander's energy level will then be checked about once a day, and some pictures may still be taken. Then by the end of 2022, the mission will be completely stopped.

The cause: the accumulation over months of Martian dust on the lander's two solar panels, each measuring about

seven feet (2.2 metres) wide.

InSight, which is already running on only a tenth of the energy it had at the beginning, will soon find its batteries drained.

The speed at which dust accumulated corresponded more or less to what had been estimated by NASA.

The lander got a new lease on life around a year ago, when its robotic arm was put to new and unplanned use to remove some dust from the solar panels, extending the mission. —AFP

Second endangered cheetah cub dies in Iran: state media

THE second of three Asiatic cheetah cubs born in captivity in Iran has died in a blow to conservation efforts for the critically endangered subspecies, state media reported Wednesday.

"The cause of death of the cub is being investigated and the result will be announced after the post mortem," environment department official Hassan Akbari told state news agency IRNA.

The announcement came just two weeks after a first cub from the litter died.

The cause of death was established as congenital malformation of the left lung, an environment department statement said.

The cubs were born in the Touran Wildlife Refuge by caesarean section on 1 May in what the department said was the

first birth of an Asiatic cheetah in captivity.

The world's fastest land animal, capable of speeds of up to 120 kilometres (75 miles) per hour, cheetahs once stalked habitats from the eastern borders of India to the Atlantic coast of Senegal.

They are still found in parts of southern Africa, but have practically disappeared from North Africa and Asia.—AFP



A critically endangered Asiatic cheetah is seen in its enclosure at Pardisan Park in the Iranian capital Tehran in 2017. Just a dozen individuals are believed to survive in the wild. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Fevered persons in DPRK total 1.48 mln with 269,000 more cases

THE number of fevered persons in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) has reached 1.48 million on Monday with around 269,000 more cases of fever, the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported Tuesday.

Among those fevered persons registered on Monday, some 170,460 recovered and six died, the KCNA reported, citing the state emergency epidemic prevention headquarters.

Since the outbreak of the fever in the country in late April, more than 819,000 fevered persons have recovered and more than 663,900 are under medical treatment, with the death toll reaching 56, the report added.

In another report on Tuesday, the KCNA said urgent measures have been taken to ensure the supply of medicines and the military medical forces of the People's Army were deployed on Monday to all pharmacies in Pyongyang and began to supply



Photo taken on 8 Sept 2018 shows an avenue decorated with national flags in Pyongyang, capital of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). **PHOTO: XINHUA/JIANG YAPING**

medicines under the 24-hour service system to the patients.

The central emergency epidemic prevention sector has made efforts to curb and root out the spread of the epidemic so as to prevent re-infection among those who had recovered from the disease, it said.

At the same time, pharma-

ceutical factories and medical appliances factories across the country have increased their production of medicines and medical supplies in urgent need, it added.

Pyongyang announced the country's first COVID-19 case on Thursday, and declared a nationwide lockdown. — Xinhua

Fewer Australians taking COVID-19 precautions: survey



A family walks past the entrance to Luna Park in the Melbourne suburb of St Kilda on 16 September 2020 as Melbourne continues to enforce strict lockdown measures to battle a second wave of the Covid-19 coronavirus. **PHOTO: WILLIAM WEST / AFP**

THE number of Australians taking precautions against the spread of coronavirus has fallen amid a surge in cases.

According to data published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) on Tuesday.

78 per cent of Australians reported wearing a face mask in the week prior to being surveyed in April, down from 98 per

cent in February. The portion of respondents who said they were physically distancing themselves from others fell from 85 to 75 per cent and 92 per cent said they were washing or sanitizing their hands regularly, down from 95 per cent.

It came as COVID-19 infections soared across Australia.

According to Department of

Health data there were nearly 1.4 million new COVID-19 cases reported in Australia in April and more than 800 deaths.

It represents almost one quarter of the 5.8 million total cases recorded in Australia to the end of April and more than 10 per cent of the country's pandemic deaths. The ABS survey found 62 per cent of households had undertaken at least one COVID-19 test in the previous four weeks, up from 46 per cent in March.

It also revealed how Australians' habits have changed since the start of the pandemic. "Almost twice as many employed Australians worked from home one or more times a week in April compared to before COVID-19 restrictions were introduced in March 2020 (46 per cent up from 24 per cent)," David Zago, ABS head of Household Surveys, said in a statement. "Meanwhile, fewer Australians exercised at a gym or played sport in April compared to March 2020 (29 per cent down from 38 per cent)." — Xinhua

Covid cut 2020 US wedding numbers to lowest since 1963

THE Covid-19 pandemic took a toll on weddings in the United States, with only some 1.6 million marriages occurring in 2020 — the lowest number since 1963, figures show.

With many couples forced to postpone their nuptials, the number of unions in 2020 fell nearly 17 per cent from the previous year, when some two million took place, the National Centre for Health Statistics (NCHS) said.

But fear not, romantics — the dip should be followed by an explosion in people walking down the aisle, with nearly 2.5 million ceremonies expected this year, according to The Wedding Report, a group specializ-

ing in marriage statistics.

Both fears of Covid-19 transmission and restrictions on gatherings curbed weddings in 2020. As a result, the marriage rate fell to 5.1 per 1,000 people — down from 6.1 the previous year, NCHS said.

Overall, 46 states and the nation's capital saw a drop in marriages in 2020, with the biggest declines occurring in Hawaii, California, New Mexico, New York and Louisiana.

Nevada — home to Las Vegas, where many couples go to tie the knot — also saw a decline from 2019, but it remained the state with the most marriages in 2020, as in previous years. — AFP



A wedding on a beach in California in February 2021. **PHOTO: MARIO TAMA / AFP/FILE**

Man offers to pay back mistakenly sent 46 mil. yen COVID funds

A man in western Japan who received 46.3 million yen (\$358,000) in COVID-19 relief money from his town by mistake before gambling it all away is now contrite and wants to pay it back "little by little", according to a person familiar with the case.

The 24-year-old resident of Abu in Yamaguchi Prefecture had earlier refused to return the money, and, according to this person, said he spent all the money in several overseas internet casinos. The man now says he is "sorry for using the money" and intends to repay it, the person said. But his lawyer said at a press conference Monday that he was unlikely to be able to pay it back. Last Thursday, the town

sued the resident for around 51 million yen, including legal fees. It is also preparing to lodge a criminal complaint against him.

On the man's claim that he used all the money on gambling, Norihiko Hanada, the mayor of Abu, expressed surprise earlier. "We want to trace the flow of the money in the lawsuit. I want him to return it, it's not too late."

On 6 April, after procedures to transfer 100,000 yen in COVID-19 relief money to each of the 463 low-income households in Abu had been completed, a town official mistakenly submitted to a financial institution a single transfer request of 46.3 million yen to the man. His name was at the top of the list. — Kyodo

ECONOMY WORLD

Scholar eyes risk as Philippines eases foreign business ownership



Ferdinand Marcos Jr. exits a polling station in Batac in the Philippines on 9 May 2022. **PHOTO: KYODO**

OUTGOING President Rodrigo Duterte's efforts to liberalize foreign ownership of key industries in the Philippines were important as much as a "danger" should the next leader fail to safeguard national security, an economist says in commenting

on Duterte's economic policy.

President-elect Ferdinand Marcos Jr. is likely to continue Duterte's infrastructure programme, foreign borrowing and a friendly approach to China used as a means to pull the economy out of deep recession

in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic. It was the worst single-year recession for the Philippines since the dictatorship of Marcos' father and namesake.

Marcos said he would focus on small- and medium-sized businesses, agriculture and accelerating industrialization just as it was in the 1970s until Marcos senior was overthrown in the 1986 pro-democracy revolution.

Marcos won huge in the 9 May presidential election, while Duterte's daughter, Sara Duterte-Carpio, won the vice-presidency.

In recent months, Duterte approved laws that would allow full foreign ownership of industries like telecommunications and shipping, and lowered the capital required of foreign retailers in order to attract foreign direct investments.—Kyodo

20 years after independence, more challenges ahead: E. Timor hero



Diversifying the economy, which is massively dependent on oil and gas, is the biggest task facing Timor-Leste. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

REFLECTING on his country's 20 years of independence, East Timor's first president and former guerilla leader Xanana Gusmao sees that the way ahead will still not be easy despite some progress made in terms of developing the economy and raising people's standard of living.

"We did some progress,

but we have also some failures, meaning that we will have more challenges in the future," Gusmao told Kyodo News in an interview in the capital Dili over the weekend. The famed icon of East Timor, who has been regarded as the national hero, shared difficulties he had to deal with in the first years of leading the tiny country

after getting independence, during which its people were still traumatized by the war.

Gusmao held the presidency from 2002 to 2007 after it gained independence from Indonesia through a referendum on self-determination in 1999. He then became prime minister until 2015.—Kyodo

NEWS IN Brief

Japan Jan.-March GDP down 1.0% on slow consumption, growing imports

JAPAN'S economy in the January-March period contracted a real 0.2 per cent from the previous quarter, or an annualized 1.0 per cent, on sluggish private consumption and increased imports such as coronavirus vaccines, government data showed Wednesday.

Real gross domestic product, the total value of goods and services produced in the country adjusted for inflation, decreased following growth of 0.9 per cent in the previous quarter, according to the preliminary data released by the Cabinet Office.

The latest quarterly GDP decline was better than the average projection of an annualized 1.8 per cent shrinkage by private-sector economists. Private consumption, which accounts for more than half of the country's GDP, fell 0.03 per cent, compared with a 2.5 per cent growth in the previous quarter.—Kyodo

US now champion for hiding wealth: NGO

THE United States now tops the global ranking of countries complicit in helping people hide their wealth, a pressure group said Tuesday and accused the world's leading nations of blocking progress on reducing financial secrecy.

Ahead of a meeting of G7 finance ministers in Germany Wednesday, the Tax Justice Network called for the creation of a global asset register to end the ability of wealthy individuals to hide trillions in dollars.

"Globally, we're starting to curb the financial secrecy used by Russian oligarchs, and also by tax evaders, corrupt politicians and organized crime around the world to hide and launder ill-gotten wealth," said Alex Cobham, chief executive at the Tax Justice Network.—AFP

Thai farmers gear up to satisfy China's growing appetite for "king of fruits"

A young man climbed barefoot on a metres-tall tree, slashed the stalk with a knife to pick durian, and then threw the fruit at Silaphon Thongrot, owner of the Miiw's durian orchard in Thailand.

From March to July each year, Thai durian farmers are all geared to address China's craving for the football-sized and thorny fruit.

"When durian season is in full swing, up to 8,000 du-

riens are picked in one day," Silaphon said while catching a durian flying towards her from a durian tree.

Located in the Chanthaburi province, the renowned fruit capital of Thailand, Silaphon's orchard is home to hundreds of durian trees with dozens of fruit on each of them. For its distinctive shape, intensive smell and rich custard-like flavour, durian is also called the "king of fruits".—Xinhua



Workers sort durians at a durian processing factory in Chanthaburi Province, Thailand, 5 May 2022. **PHOTO: XINHUA/WANG TENG**

Allianz to pay US\$6bln to settle US securities fraud cases

INSURANCE giant Allianz will pay \$6 billion in restitution and fines over a multi-billion fraudulent scheme that hit American teachers, clergy and other investors, US regulators announced Tuesday.

Allianz Global Investors US, a US unit of the German financial firm,

admitted to violating US securities laws with its "Structured Alpha" scheme which dates to at least January 2016 and was exposed with the stock market downturn in March 2020, said the US Securities and Exchange Commission.

Allianz Global, as well

as two of three portfolio managers named in the complaint, also agreed to plead guilty in a parallel criminal case, the SEC said.

The agency said Allianz and the three portfolio managers doctored key financial figures to make losses look smaller than

they were.

But when Covid-19 struck the United States in March 2020, the pandemic-induced market crash showed Allianz had misled investors about risk, and "the fund suffered catastrophic losses and investors lost billions," the SEC said.—AFP

Mineral production in India rises 4 per cent in March

Mineral production in India registered a growth of 4 per cent year-on-year in March 2022 led by strong growth in iron ore, phosphorite, natural gas and lignite, the government data showed on Tuesday.

The index of mineral production of mining and quarrying sector for the month of March 2022 (Base: 2011-12=100) at 144.6, was 4 per cent higher as compared to the level in March 2021, according to data released by the Ministry of Mines. As per the provisional figures of the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), the cumulative growth for the period April-March 2021-22 over the corresponding period of the previous year has increased 12.2 per cent.

The production level of important minerals in March 2022 were: Coal 958 lakh tonnes, Lignite 60 lakh tonnes, Natural gas (utilised) 2813 million cu. m., Petroleum (crude) 25 lakh tonnes, Bauxite 2031 thousand tonnes, Chromite 414 thousand tonnes, Copper conc. 9 thousand tonnes, Gold 169 kg, Iron ore 270 lakh tonnes, Lead conc. 39 thousand tonnes, Manganese ore 269 thousand tonnes, Zinc conc. 182 thousand tonnes, Limestone 373 lakh tonnes, Phosphorite 158 thousand tonnes, Magnesite 12 thousand tonnes, and Diamond 8 carat.—ANI

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- In respect of **Class 5**: Energy drinks and all goods.
- In respect of **Class 25**: Clothing, footwear, headgear and all goods.
- In respect of **Class 29**: Milk and milk products, soy products and all goods.
- In respect of **Class 30**: Coffee, tea, cocoa and all goods.
- In respect of **Class 32**: Beers, water, non-alcoholic beverages, fruit beverages, preparations for making beverages and all goods.
- In respect of **Class 35**: Advertising, marketing, business management and all services.
- In respect of **Class 41**: Entertainment, education, sporting activities and all services.
- In respect of **Class 43**: Services for providing food and drink and all services.



Reg. Nos. 12861/2016, 27972/2019

In respect of **Class 32**: Non-alcoholic beverages; beer.

DARK ENERGY

Reg. No. 6868/2020

In respect of **Class 32**: Non-alcoholic beverages, including carbonated drinks and energy drinks; syrups, concentrates, powders and preparations for making beverages, including carbonated drinks and energy drinks; beer.

Energy Beverages LLC claims the trademark rights and other relevant intellectual property rights for the marks as mentioned above. Energy Beverages LLC reserves the rights to take legal measures against any infringer who violates its intellectual property or other legal rights in accordance with the concerned laws of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Daw Khin Myo Myo Aye, LL.B., Advocate (14833)

For Energy Beverages LLC

Tilleke & Gibbins Myanmar Ltd. No. 1608, 16th Floor, Sakura Tower, 339 Bogyoke Aung San Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

Email address: myanmar@tilleke.com Dated: 19 May 2022.

TRADE MARK CAUTION

Merck Sharp & Dohme B.V., a private company with limited liability organized under the laws of the Netherlands, and having its principal office at Waarderweg 39 Haarlem, 2031 BN Netherlands, is the owner and sole proprietor of the following trademark: -



(Reg. No.: IV/3070/2022) (April 28, 2022)

Use in respect of: - "Pharmaceutical preparations; pharmaceutical preparations for the treatment of infectious diseases; anti-infectives; antivirals;" (International Class 5)

Any unauthorized use, imitation, infringement, or fraudulent intention of the above trademark will be dealt with according to law.

Moe Mynn Thu (LL.B, LL.M, M.Res)
Rouse Myanmar
For Merck Sharp & Dohme B.V.
Email: myanmar@rouse.com
Dated: May 19, 2022

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V TS DELTA VOY.NO. (2201)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V TS DELTA VOY.NO. (2201) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19-5-2022 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of IBTT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301928

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SANIA VOY.NO. (03/22)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SANIA VOY. NO. (03/22) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20-5-2022 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of WILMAR where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301928

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S WILHELMSSEN PORT SERVICE(S) PTE LTD

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GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Flight data shows China Eastern jet deliberately crashed: report

US investigators believe someone on board deliberately crashed a China Eastern flight in March, the Wall Street Journal reported Tuesday, in what was China's deadliest air disaster in decades.

China Eastern flight MU5375 was travelling from Kunming to Guangzhou on 21 March when it inexplicably plunged from an altitude of 29,000 feet into a mountainside, killing all 132 people on board.

So-called black box flight data recorders recovered from the site were sent to the United States for analysis.

That data shows that someone – possibly a pilot or someone

who had forced their way into the cockpit – input orders to send the Boeing 737-800 into a nosedive, according to Wall Street Journal, which cited people familiar with the probe.

“The plane did what it was told to do by someone in the cockpit,” the Journal quoted “a person who is familiar with American officials’ preliminary assessment” as saying.

US officials believe their conclusion is backed up by the fact that Chinese investigators have so far not indicated any problems with the aircraft or flight controls that could have caused the crash and would need to be addressed

in future flights, the newspaper said.

Both the US National Transportation Safety Board and Boeing declined to comment on the investigation to AFP Tuesday.

According to a report from Boeing, investigators found no evidence of “anything abnormal”, China's Civil Aviation Administration (CAAC) said in April. In a statement, the CAAC said staff had met safety requirements before takeoff, the plane was not carrying dangerous goods and did not appear to have run into inclement weather, though the agency said a full investigation could take years.—AFP



This photo taken on 21 March 2022 shows paramilitary police officers conducting a search at the site of the China Eastern Airlines plane crash in Tengxian county, Wuzhou city, in China's southern Guangxi region. **PHOTO: CNS/AFP**

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Russia says 265 Ukraine troops surrendered at Azovstal

RUSSIA said Tuesday that 265 Ukrainian soldiers, including several dozen wounded troops, surrendered at the besieged Azovstal steel plant in Ukraine's port city of Mariupol.

“Over the past 24 hours, 265 militants laid down their arms and surrendered, including 51 heavily wounded,” the defence ministry said.

The ministry added that those in need of medical care were transferred to a hospital in the town of Novoazovsk.

Asked by reporters on Tuesday whether the Ukrainian soldiers will be treated as war



Russian soldiers and volunteers distribute bread in Mariupol. **PHOTO: AFP**

criminals or prisoners of war, Russian President Vladimir Putin's spokesman did not give an answer.—AFP

Russia, Ukraine say their peace talks on hold

RUSSIAN and Ukrainian officials said on Tuesday that negotiations on a solution to the current crisis have been suspended as the process is mired in stalemate.

“The talks are not going on. Ukraine has actually withdrawn

from the negotiation process,” Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Andrei Rudenko told reporters.

Russia has received no response from Ukraine to its draft treaty, he added.

“Today the negotiation pro-

cess was suspended. It was suspended because there are no significant changes or upheavals after the Istanbul communique,” Mykhailo Podolyak, a member of the Ukrainian delegation, was quoted by the Interfax-Ukraine news agency as saying.—Xinhua

Ukraine mourns first president Leonid Kravchuk

DEEP in the throes of a Russian invasion, Ukraine on Tuesday mourned former president Leonid Kravchuk, who led the country to independence in

1991 and died on 10 May aged 88.

Current President Volodymyr Zelensky was clearly emotional as he laid a wreath

of white, pale pink and violet flowers by Kravchuk's coffin, which was draped in a blue and yellow national flag.—AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

War in Ukraine enters 'protracted phase': defence minister

THE war with Russia is entering “a protracted phase”, Ukrainian Defence Minister Oleksiy Reznikov said Tuesday, as Moscow's troops are now trying to take full control of the east and south of the country.

“Russia is preparing for a long-term military operation,” Reznikov told European Union defence ministers and NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg.

“The war is entering a protracted phase,” he added in the speech, the text of which was published on his Facebook page.

According to Reznikov, Russian troops are currently building fortifications in the Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions in order to “move to defence if necessary”.

The Kremlin's main efforts are now focused on “encircling and destroying groups of the Armed Forces of Ukraine in Donetsk and Lugansk regions, creating and maintaining a land corridor from Russia to Crimea, and completing the occupation of southern Ukraine”, he added.

Reznikov called on Ukraine's Western allies for more coordination in arms deliveries to Kyiv, “to liberate our territories as soon as possible”.—AFP

Russia may cut gas to Finland soon: energy group

RUSSIA may cut gas supplies to Finland soon over the Nordic country's refusal to pay Gazprom in roubles, Finnish state-owned Gasum said on Tuesday.

Gasum said it would take its dispute with Gazprom Export to arbitration, a move that risks angering neighbouring Russia further as Helsinki prepares to submit its NATO membership bid on Wednesday.

“Gasum considers there to be an increased risk of the natural gas supply ... being halted, and consequently the import of natural gas from Russia to Finland might end,” it said in a statement.

On Sunday, Russia suspended electricity supplies to Finland overnight after its energy firm RAO Nordic claimed payment arrears, although the shortfall was quickly replaced.—AFP



Myanmar team miss final with 0-1 loss to Viet Nam SEA Games 31

THE semifinals of the SEA Games women's football tournament continued on 18 May, with the Myanmar team missing out on the final and Thailand and Viet Nam advancing to the final. Myanmar met defending champions Viet Nam in the semifinals yesterday and lost 0-1.

Team players tried their best to reach the final, which was far away from the Myanmar team many years ago but lost with a single goal.

Therefore, the Myanmar

team will have to compete for third place.

The Myanmar team made some changes to the starting lineup with goalkeeper May Zin Nwe, and players Aye Aye Moe, Chit Chit, Khin Than Wai, Phyu Phyu Win, Pont Pont Pyae Maung, Khin Malar Tun, Naw Htet Htet Wai, Khin Mo Mo Tun, July Kyaw and Win Theingi Tun. The defending champions, Viet Nam, were able to put pressure on the Myanmar team from the start with the full support of the home audience.



Myanmar's Win Theingi Tun (white) tries to clear the ball from the Vietnamese player during their semifinal match of the SEA Games women's football event at Cam Pha Stadium in Viet Nam on 18 May 2022. **PHOTO: MFF**

Myanmar men's futsal team miss bronze medal in SEA Games 31

THE fourth day of the SEA Games National Futsal Group was held on 18 May and the Myanmar team lost again and missed out on the bronze medal. On the fourth day of the group, Thailand and Indonesia drew 1-1 and the host Viet Nam beat Myanmar 4-0. The Myanmar team can only hope to win the medal if they win this match.

Team Myanmar has one game left to play and has lost three matches in a row.

The Myanmar team was able to play without conceding a goal in the first half but lost in the second half due to a series of goals. Indonesia has eight points from four matches, Thailand and Viet Nam have seven points from three games, while

Myanmar and Malaysia have lost all three games.

The final group matches will be played on 20 May with Myanmar taking on Malaysia and hosting Viet Nam meeting Thailand. The Myanmar national futsal team competed in all five Futsal events at the SEA Games but missed out on the medal. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

The Myanmar team played well in defence and tried to score the goal with a counter-attack. The Vietnamese were able to put more pressure, but the Myanmar defence made a few mistakes. From a cross of Nguyen Thi Tuyet Dung, captain Huynh Nhu got a reverse header that glided the ball into the far corner, out of the keeper's reach at 28 minute-mark. The Myanmar team tried to get equalizers in the second half but the Vietnamese defender controlled it.

The Myanmar team did not get a chance because the Vietnamese defenders blocked the connection between Myanmar's main striker Win Theingi Tun and the midfielders. In the other semifinal, Thailand beat the Philippines 3-0 to reach the final. On 21 May, Myanmar will take on the Philippines for the third place while host Viet Nam will play against Thailand for the championship title. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Myanmar teams win silver and bronze medals in Rowing, Canoeing events



Silver medallists who won in the Rowing event are seen together with President U Thaug Htike Min of the Myanmar Rowing Federation. **PHOTO: MRF**

MYANMAR teams won one silver and one bronze medals in the Rowing and Canoeing event of the SEA Games held in Viet Nam on 18 May.

The Myanmar rowing team won a silver medal in the men's 1,000-metre Rowing competition and a bronze medal in the men's 1,000-metre Canoeing event.

In the men's 1,000-metre Rowing competition, Indonesia bagged gold, and Viet Nam earned bronze medals.

Next in the men's 1,000-metre Canoeing event, Viet Nam won the gold medal while Indo-

nesia grabbed the bronze medal.

The Myanmar Rowing team which won the silver medal includes Tun Min Thant, Htet Wai Lwin, Myint Ko Ko, and Saw Moe Aung while the Myanmar team which won the bronze medal includes Win Htike, Min Naing, Sai Min Wai and Thant Zin Oo.

Rowing competitions will continue today with Myanmar teams competing in the Finals.

Currently, Myanmar Rowing Team has won one silver and two bronze medals. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

2nd batch of Myanmar sports team welcomed back

THE 2nd batch of the Myanmar sports team that participated in the 31st South-East Asian Games in Hanoi and other related cities of Viet Nam returned to the country on 17 May.

The team was welcomed back by the principal of Sports and Physical Education Institute

(Yangon), the Director of the Yangon Region Department of Sports and Physical Education under the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs at Yangon International Airport at 9:30 pm. The team consisted of 35 men footballers, 17 golfers, three archers and five Taekwondo players. — MNA

SEA Games Billiard Doubles Event to be held on 19, 20 May

THE SEA Games Billiard Double tourney will be launched on 19 and 20 May.

Only four teams will compete in the billiards doubles, which will be played in the semi-finals, with the winning team advancing to the final.

According to the match

schedule, the Myanmar team will face the host Viet Nam team and the Singapore team will play the Thai team in the other match.

The Myanmar team will include Pauk Sa and Min Si Thu Tun. Pauk Sa won the gold medal in the individual billiards

competition held on 17 May.

The Billiards Doubles Tournament has been excluded from the last 2019 Philippine SEA Games.

The Myanmar Billiards team won gold medals in the doubles event in the previous SEA Games, and this time,

Pauk Sa has won the individual competition, and there is a good chance of winning the gold medal.

Only Myanmar and Thailand have won the most gold medals in the billiards doubles competition, and the Myanmar Billiards team, which has many

good billiards players, has great potential.

In addition to the billiards doubles event, the Myanmar Billiards Team also competes in the Pool 10 Ball Men's Individual Tournament and Individual Snooker Tournaments. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM



Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

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

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

3. Social affairs

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



Myanmar Vovinam team bag one gold, one bronze, whereas Rowing team grab one silver in SEA Games



THE 31st South-East Asian Games, hosted by Viet Nam, is being

held at stadiums in various cities. Ma Khine Wah Phoo and Ma May Honey Aung Lwin won the sixth gold medal for Myanmar in the women's doubles event (performing event) of Vovinam at Soc Son Stadium in Hanoi, Viet Nam yesterday evening.

Likewise, Ma Hnin Thet Wai bagged a bronze medal in the 55-kg event

of women's Vovinam.

Next, Khin Mar Hse won a silver medal in the women's 10,000-metre race at My Dinh National Stadium.

The Myanmar rowing team won another silver medal at the 1,000-metre men's Kayak event against Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam and Cambodia, and the Myanmar Canoeing team won one bronze medal at the 1,000-metre Canoeing men's event. Similarly, the Myanmar team competed in the third-place match of Recurve Women's Archery Team (Recurve)

held at Hanoi National Sports Training Centre yesterday



The sixth gold medallist-Ma Khine Wah Phoo and Ma May Honey Aung Lwin.

day and the team Myanmar won a bronze medal.

Maung Zaw Lin Htet won another bronze medal in Taekwondo 63-kg at Tay Ho Stadium.

The Union Minister and party vis-

ited and supported the Myanmar team's participation in Sepak Takraw, Volleyball and Women's Football match yesterday.

Myanmar has won six gold, eight silver and 15 bronze medals in the 31st South-East Asian Games. With a total of 29 medals, it is reported that Myanmar is ranked 7th in the ASEAN. — MNA