

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Thursday, 30 June 2022

Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

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

State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Thai delegation headed by Lt-Gen Apichet Suesat of Royal Thai Army



State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing takes the documentary group photo with Thai delegation led by Lt-Gen Apichet Suesat of the Royal Thai Army in Nay Pyi Taw on 29 June 2022.

STATE Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received the delegation headed by Lt-Gen Apichet Suesat of the Royal

Thai Army at the guest hall of Zeyathiri Villa in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon. The Thai delegation was here to attend the 34th meeting of the Thailand-Myanmar Regional Border Committee hosted by

Myanmar.

Also present at the meeting together with State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing were SAC

Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, senior Tatmadaw officers and U Chit Swe, Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand.

The leader of the Thai delegation was accompanied by Colonel Saranyanis Sutthiwajachinadej, a Thai Military Attaché to Myanmar, and senior officers of the Royal Thai Army.

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar Announcement of Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

2nd Waxing of Waso 1384 ME
29 June 2022

AS it is necessary to continuously control infection of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), it is hereby announced that public requests, orders, notifications and directives (except for easing the restrictions) released by the Union-level organizations and Union ministries up to 30 June 2022 have been extended until 31 July 2022 for prevention, control and treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

6 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 29 June, total figure rises to 613,583

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **613,583** after **six** new cases were reported on 29 June 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **592,539** 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 28-6-2022, a total of **29,871,687** people above 18 have been vaccinated. A total of **5,452,304** people under 18 have been vaccinated. —MNA

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

MRTV to broadcast 10th ABU TV Song Festival

THE MRTV is making efforts to produce entertaining programmes for the satisfaction and recreation of people and it will broadcast the 10th ABU (Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union) TV Song Festival on MRTV-HD Channel after 8 pm national

news on 1 July.

The MRTV is one of the members of ABU. The ABU TV Song Festival is held yearly with the performance of famous singers and bands of the ABU member countries.

Now, the MRTV selects 10

songs from India, Türkiye, China (Macau), South Korea, Viet Nam, Indonesia, Japan, Brunei, Malaysia and Kazakhstan out of the member countries.

The programme will be broadcast again at 10:30 am on 3 July. — MNA

SAC Information Team to hold press conference 17/2022

THE Information Team of the State Administration Council will hold a press conference 17/2022 at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw at 1 pm on 1 July. Local and foreign media personnel are invited to the press conference, it is learnt. — MNA

17th press conference of Information Team to be broadcast live on 1 July

THE 17th 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 Myanma Radio, Thazin FM, Mandalay FM, Pyinsawady FM, Shwe FM, Padamyar FM, FM Bagan, Cherry FM and Star FM starting from 1 pm on 1 July at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information. — MNA



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

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

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

State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Thai delegation ...

FROM PAGE-1

At the meeting, they discussed and exchanged views on enhancing the existing friendship and cooperation between defence forces of the two countries, stability in the border area, increasing cooperation in various sectors including the rule of law and control of narcotics, political developments of Myanmar,

security forces' attempts for the eradication of terrorist incidents, measures for successful implementation of peace and development and anti-terrorism in border areas, cultural exchange and holding sports meets between defence forces of the two countries, exchange of friendship visits and the endeavours of Myanmar Tatmadaw for peace

talks with ethnic armed organizations with the intention of achieving perpetual peace throughout the country and measures being taken for the return of CDM staff, students and youths into the legal fold.

After the meeting, the Senior General and the leader of the Thai delegation exchanged gifts and posed for documentary photos. — MNA



The Senior General and the Thai delegation leader exchange presents.



The Senior General receives the Thai delegation led by Lt-Gen Apichet Suesat of the Royal Thai Army in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

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

Working Committee to address the impact of COVID-19 on the national economy meets



THE meeting of the Working Committee to address the impact of COVID-19 on the national economy (4/2022) was virtually held yesterday afternoon at Office No (1), Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations.

The meeting was chaired by U Aung Naing Oo, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations. Members of the Working Committee, Deputy Ministers for Labour and for Commerce, Permanent Secretary and representatives from the Ministries concerned attended the

meeting.

During the meeting, they discussed the matters which could be supportive for the agriculture sector, the provision of loans for respective economic sectors, conditions regarding loan repayments in states and regions, upcoming loan provisions and the works done by the working committee.

The meeting also discussed relief measures carried out by concerned ministries, works which were conducted for the economic stability and upcoming plan of action to be done by the committee. —MNA

Pakokku Literary Award ceremony to be held

THE list of award winners for the 2020 Pakokku Literary Award established by Pakokku U Ohn Pe has been announced in the State-owned newspapers.

The award-presenting ceremony will be held on Friday 8 July at 10 am at the meeting hall of the Printing and Publishing Department at No 228, Theinbyu Road, Yangon. Award winners have been invited to attend the Award-Presenting Ceremony.

For more detailed information, it is available to contact the phone number 01-381449 of the Administration section of the Sarpay Beikman Office, it is learnt. — MNA

Cambodian Deputy PM Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation arrives in Myanmar



THE Cambodian delegation led by Mr PRAK Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister of Cambodia, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and Head of the Office of the Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair on Myanmar arrived in Yangon at 3:30 pm on 29 June through Suvarnabhumi Airport, Bangkok, Thailand at.

U Zaw Phyo Win, Director-General of the Strategic

Studies and Training Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Deputy Director-General U Zaw Tun Oo of the Protocol Department, Cambodian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chhouk Bunna and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Embassy of Cambodia welcomed the delegation at the Yangon International Airport.

During the trip, the delega-

tion team will try to ensure the implementation of the results of the Facilitation of the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Meeting that was held on 6 May 2022, the Five-Point Consensus of the ASEAN and will make great efforts to help political discussion through the meetings and implement the National Reconciliation Process peacefully for the internal conflicts of Myanmar, it is learnt. —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.

Officials release date for EPS-TOPIK test

MYANMAR migrant workers can apply for the test for manufacturing, construction and agriculture/livestock sectors in South Korea from 7 to 23 July 2022, according to the statement of POEA-EPS on Wednesday.

The application process will go online and the application link and QR Code can get on the POEA-EPS Facebook page, Ministry of Labour website <http://www.mol.govmm> and Safe Migration Facebook.

Those who successfully pass the online process will get the application form number and the officials will announce the exact date for payment of the test on Facebook and the website, it said.

The test registration fee is US\$24 and it can be made in Myanmar kyats.

The applicants can apply with Passport for Visit (PV) or

Passport for Job (PJ). Those who pass the test must have a Passport for Job (PJ) with a one-year term at least when they apply for the job. They have to take Computer Based Test, it added.

The time and venue of test for manufacturing and construction will be announced on 3 August and that for agriculture/livestock on 12 October.

The EPS-TOPIK and Skills Test for construction and manufacturing will be from 16 August to 15 October while the agriculture/livestock from 21 October to 23 December.

The results will be announced on 22 October for manufacturing and construction and on 30 December for agriculture/livestock.

The pass mark of EPS-TOPIK is over 55 marks out of 100 for manufacturing and the



The picture dated 7 February 2022 shows Myanmar workers who are going to work in S Korea.

estimated number of successful candidates is 7045, the pass mark for construction and agriculture/livestock is over 36 marks out of 90 and the estimated number of

successful candidates is 1485 for construction and 595 for agriculture/livestock.

Only the data for the test mentioned in the statement of

POEA are approved and those who meet the criteria can apply for the test, and those who pass the exam can work in South Korea, it said. — TWA/GNLM

PHOTO NEWS

Fire breaks out at Sky Way Club & KTV in Ahlon Township



A level-2 fire broke out at Sky Way Club & KTV at the corner of Ahlon Road and Strand Road in Ahlon Township in Yangon Region at 10:23 pm on 29 June 2022. Firefighters from Ahlon and other townships arrived at the scene and put the fire under control at 11 p.m.

PHOTO: SRCB (Yangon Myanmar)

Bayintnaung market: Weekly commodity prices

THE onion and broken rice prices are high again at the Bayintnaung market between 23 and 29 June. The Chinese onions enter daily and palm oil price drastically drops while the black gram and pigeon pea prices become high again.

Rice

The finished rice prices remain unchanged. The rice price is K55,000-60,000 per bag of Shwebo Pawsan while K54,000 per bag of Pathein Pawsan, K51,000 per bag of Pyapon Pawsan and K40,000 per bag of Pawkywe. It is K33,000 per bag of Theethtet, K37,000-38,000 per bag of special Myaungmya (90 days) and K35,000 per bag of normal.

There are about 90 trucks carrying Shwebo (90 days) rice bags to the Bayintnaung wholesale centre and it is K36,000 per bag. The transport charge from Shwebo to Yangon is K3,000 per bag of rice. The (1-2 raw rice) price declines to K29,500 per bag and it rises to K30,500 per bag this week. The summer sticky rice is K58,000 per bag (102 pounds) and K39,000 per bag of monsoon sticky rice.

Onion/garlic

This week, the Monywa onion prices on 27 June were K1,150-1,450-1,600-1,650 per viss while K1,150-1,400-1,500-1,600 per viss of Seikpyu onion. On 29 June, the market received only 60,000 visses of onion and the prices rose to K1,300-1,600-1,700-1,800 per viss of Monywa onion and K1,200-1,450-1,550-1,650 per viss of Seikpyu onion.

One Chinese onion (large size) truck enters the market with 60,000 visses and the price is K1,600 per viss.

Shan garlic (Aungban) is K2,200-2,600-3,200-3,700 per viss and Kyukok garlic (small bag) is only K2,650.

Potato

On 29 June, the market received 24,000 visses of potato. The Shan Heho potato was priced at K1,550-1,650-1,650-1,650 per viss, Chinese potato K1,750, Bangla potato K1,500 and cleaned potato K1,750.

Chilli

On 29 June, the new Meiktila chilli was priced at K7,700 per viss. In the Yangon market, Hinthada chilli was K7,700 per

viss and over 100 chilli bags were sold out.

Myarni and Pan Ngaye chilli (normal) is K8,000 per viss while K8,500 per viss of chilli is kept in cold storage, K9,000 per viss of Myitwa Moe Htaung, K8,500-9,200 per viss of Sinphyukyun chilli and K10,000-12,000 per viss of Atwin Myitwa chilli.

Cooking oil

The price of peanut oil is K8,500-11,000 per viss and K8,500-9,500 per viss of sesame oil. The palm oil price was K7,200 per viss on 21 June and was only K6,200 on 29 June.

The oil vessels arrive in the country and the foreign oil prices also decline and so the prices of the Yangon market also drastically drop.

Black gram and pigeon pea

This week, the black gram FAQ/RC (2022) price is over K70,000 per tonne and K60,000 per tonne of pigeon pea. On 29 June, the black gram RC was priced at K1,693,500 per tonne and a total of 240 tonnes were sold out. The pigeon pea RC (2022) was also priced at K1,447,500 per tonne. — TWA/GNLM

Yangon Mayor inspects development tasks in Thanlyin Township



YANGON Mayor U Bo Htay, in his capacity as chairman of the Yangon City Development Committee, and officials inspected the cleaning activities such as the pruning of weeds and bushes for cleanliness and tidiness along the approach road to the Thanlyin Bridge and the roadsides of the railway track, the landscaping of the park near the bridge and the drainage cleaning activities yesterday morning and gave instructions where necessary.

Afterwards, the Yangon may-

The Yangon mayor inspects the vicinity of the Thanlyin Bridge.

or and the party examined the works of cutting weeds and tree branches to ensure the safety of power lines and also directed to remove ruined roadside barriers set on the vacant land and the old road near ups and downs of the bridge, dredge a drainage ditch, perform land levelling, and remove the old signboards near the tollgate.

Later, the mayor inspected the construction of a new three-storey office building at the Thanlyin Township Development Committee Office and called for the achievement of business goals for each financial year. — MNA

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, petroleum, consumer goods, electronics, pharmaceutical raw materials, auto parts, motorboats 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-Illegal Trade Task Force, an on-duty team conducted inspections at the Mayanchaung Permanent Checkpoint on 26, 27 and 29 June.

Officials confiscated various sandals worth K3.9 million that exceeded the number of the Import Declaration (ID) from a truck heading from Myawady to Yangon and captured a Nissan Skyline (ECR 33) race car (approximately K8 million) from an Isuzu NPR81 truck (approximately K40 million) near the 95/5 Milepost on the Myawady-Pyidaungsu Road on 26 June.

Similarly, they captured K1,998,000 worth toiletries that exceeded the number of the Import Declaration (ID) from a truck on 27 June and K3.54 million worth of car tyres that ex-

ceeded the number of the Import Declaration (ID) from a vehicle heading from Myawady to Yangon on 29 June.

The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

In addition, a combined team led by department officials and security forces were carried out inspections under the supervision of the Shan State Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force on 27 June.

K63,355,700 worth of foodstuffs, consumer goods, electronics, pharmaceutical raw materials and auto parts were seized from two Dongfeng 12-wheel trucks (approximately K45 million) near the small passenger buses compound in Muse township on 27 June. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

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

They confiscated K31.2 mil-



Seized Nissan Skyline race car in Mon State.

lion worth of 12 wooden motorboats and K8 million worth of two iron motorboats that were used for stone-mining work without any licence from Ayeyawady River in Magway Township. The action was taken under the Water Resources and River Law.

A total of 1,020 cartons of various Chinese snacks worth K5.1 million without any official documents were captured from a Jing

Gong 22-wheel truck (approximately K25 million) entering from Myitkyina into Letpanhla at the Letpanhla-Singu temporary checkpoint on 28 June. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Similarly, a total of 70 cartons of LEO beers worth K840,000 and 200 kilogrammes of frozen meat (CP) worth K400,000 from a Toyota Voxy vehicle (approximately

K15 million) were captured at the Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) Combined Checkpoint, and the action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

On 29 June, an inspection team led by the Police Force captured 5,450 gallons of illegal petroleum worth K43,055,000 and 250 gallons of fuel oil worth K2,050,000 in Shwebo and Taze townships under the Sagaing Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force. The action was taken under the Myanmar Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law.

In addition, a total of 2,3848 tonnes of illegal timbers at an estimated value of K294,302 were captured in the Yoma forest protect area in Yedashe township of Toungoo district, and the action was taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, 32 arrests (approximately K296,733,072) were made on four consecutive days from 26 to 29 June, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee.— MNA

72.4820 tonnes of illegal timbers seized in Nay Pyi Taw, regions/states

THE Forest Department of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation adopts the community monitoring and reporting system (CMRS) to curb illegal timbers and forest products.

According to the data col-

lected between 20 and 26 June, the department seized a total of 72.4820 tonnes of illegal timbers — 32.4206 tonnes of teak, 11.8900 tonnes of hardwood and 28.1714 tonnes of others in regions/states and Nay Pyi Taw and arrested 30

suspects with 15 vehicles, the department stated. — Maung Thit Taw

Officials seize illegal timbers.



LOCAL BUSINESS

YRIC endorses 3 domestic, 3 foreign CMP manufacturing projects with 3,373 job opportunities

THE Yangon Region Investment Committee (YRIC) endorsed three domestic and three foreign enterprises in the manufacturing sector, with an estimated capital of over K4.44 billion and US\$6.659 million at a meeting held on 29 June at the YRIC office in Yankin Township.

Those six projects will execute the production of synthetic hairs, and manufacturing of brassiere, underwear and clothes on a Cutting, Making and Packing (CMP) basis. They will create 3,373 jobs for the residents.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, in his capacity as chair of YIRC, attended the meeting with other committee members. The regional chief



The Yangon Region Investment Committee meeting is in progress on 29 June.

minister gave a remark as well. Then, 13 companies also submitted general reports and

YRIC's chairman and the committee members coordinated the matters.

The manufacturing sector has attracted the most foreign investments in Yangon Region,

with enterprises engaging in the production of pharmaceuticals, vehicles, container boxes, and garments on a Cutting, Making, and Packing (CMP) basis.

To date, foreign investments from China, Singapore, Japan, Hong Kong, the Republic of Korea, Viet Nam, India, China (Taipei), Malaysia, the British Virgin Islands and Seychelles are arriving in the region.

To simplify the verification of investment projects, the Myanmar Investment Law allows the region and state Investment Committees to grant permissions for local and foreign proposals, where the initial investment does not exceed K6 billion, or \$5 million. — San Kyaw Oo (IPRD)/GNLM

Black gram price moves onwards reaching approximately K1.7 mln per tonne

THE upward trend of black gram (urad in India) continues and hit a high of around K 1.7 million per tonne, according to the bean market.

On 1 June, it was priced at only K 1,456,500 per tonne, whereas it tremendously rose to K 1,693,500 per tonne on 29 June, reflecting an increase of over K237,000 per tonne within one month.

The domestic black gram prices climbed as India, the main buyer of Myanmar's black grams, has a growing need for bean consumption. Additionally, India's government hiked the minimum support price (MSP) of pulses, from Rs 6,300 to Rs 6,600 for pigeon peas and black gram, Rs 7,275 to Rs 7,755 for green gram, Rs 3,950 to Rs 4,300 for soybean, Rs 7,307 and Rs 7,830 for sesame, Rs 6,015 to Rs 6,400 for sunflower and Rs 5,550 to Rs 5,850 for peanuts.

The price is expected to remain on upward trends if India's demand grows. The prevailing prices of black grams in the domestic market are highly

correlated with the rise in fuel oil prices and the exchange rate against the dollar.

In September 2021, the prices hit an all-time high of K2 million per tonne when the US dollar exchange rate with Myanmar currency hit over K3,000 in the local forex market.

India, the main buyer of Myanmar's black grams, has a high consumption of black grams. Furthermore, it re-exports them to the external market after processing the grams. The annual consumption of black grams in India is estimated at 2.7-2.8 million tonnes.

India extended relaxations of conditions regarding clearance consignment for black gram and pigeon peas until 31 March 2023.

Myanmar conveyed \$322.411 million worth of over 426,643 tonnes of various beans and pulses to foreign trade partners between 1 April and 17 June in the current financial year 2022-2023. The country shipped over 331,814.583 tonnes

of pulses and beans worth US\$259.496 million to foreign markets through the sea route, and over 94,828 tonnes worth US\$62.945 million were sent to the neighbouring countries through the land border.

Myanmar exported US\$1.57 billion worth of over two million tonnes of various pulses to foreign trade partners last financial year 2020-2021. The country shipped US\$966.4 million worth of 1.24 million tonnes of pulses and beans to foreign markets through the sea route, and US\$604.3 million valued 786,920 tonnes were sent to the neighbouring countries through the land border.

Myanmar yearly produces approximately 400,000 tonnes of black gram and about 50,000 tonnes of pigeon peas. Myanmar is the top producer of the black gram which is primarily demanded by India, while pigeon peas, black grams and chickpeas are cultivated in Australia and African countries besides Myanmar. — NN/GNLM

Gold entrepreneurs seek licence for gold bar transactions

FOLLOWING the statement of action against those unauthorized dealers, gold entrepreneurs are increasingly seeking a licence for gold bar transactions, said U Myo Myint, chair of Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA).

YGEA members and gold traders were notified of seeking a trade licence for gold shops and a licence for gold bar transactions, according to the statement issued on 17 May. It also mentioned taking action against those unauthorized dealers involved in online trade platforms under the existing laws.

Then, a high number of gold entrepreneurs are applying for a licence. The association is also issuing recommendation letters to those traders. At present, YGEA has recommended over 60 entrepreneurs, said U Myo Myint.

"As the YGEA presents a recommendation letter to seek a licence for gold bar transactions to the businesspersons, over 60 entrepreneurs have made them. Yangon City Development Committee has granted the licence for them. After that, those unscrupulous traders cannot manipulate the market price as they cannot make transactions without a licence. It is a move to stabilize the

gold price," he continued.

This is to end the cross-border black market and govern price manipulation, U Myo Myint added.

In a bid to stabilize the volatile gold prices, gold transactions had better be made according to the reference rate of the Central Bank of Myanmar (K1,850 per US\$), according to the CBM's statement released on 3 April.

YGEA called for an urgent meeting on 8 April. The meeting determined to carry out gold transactions depending on the CBM's reference exchange rate. However, it has not come into force yet, said U Myo Myint, chair of YGEA.

The US dollar stands at K2,100 in the unofficial black market. The domestic gold price is highly correlated with the global gold price, YGEA stated.

During the end of September 2021, a dollar value hit an all-time high of over K3,000 in the exchanges and consequently, the pure gold reached a record high of K2.22 million per tical in history.

At present, pure gold is worth K2,050,000 per tical (0.578 ounce, or 0.016 kilogramme) in the domestic market, while the global gold price stands at US\$1,830 per ounce. — NN/GNLM

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OPINION

Arrange systematic disposing of waste to avoid pollution

UNDISCIPLINED acts of disposing of wastes not only in urban areas but in rural regions and direct disposing of waste and dangerous chemicals from industries into the water and land without systematic management may cause dangers to the health of humans and the environment.

The United Nations Environment Program stated some seven million global peoples lose their lives yearly due to pollution in the environment. The global countries dispose of 11.2 billion tonnes of waste on a yearly basis, some eight million tonnes of which go to seas and oceans, triggering water pollution.

Actually, humans use more than 100,000 items of chemical elements. As such, if they do not manage the use of precursor chemicals across the world, it may cause a hazard to the environment and humans. That is why it is necessary to take care disposing of waste across the world.

Currently, the resumed session of UNEA-5 (UNEA-5.2) held in March 2022 agreed to implement a convention under the law to eradicate plastic pollution which becomes a global problem. Hence, Myanmar needs to adopt plans for controlling plastic pollution through various ways and means. Only when the entire people participate in the controlling of plastic pollution will it deliver many benefits to the State.

In order to control the various pollutions, all the people need to systematically dispose of the waste. Hence, it is necessary to supervise the development affairs bodies and related departments and organizations in ensuring the waste management is in line with the national waste management strategy and the master plan adopted by the government.

This being so, the government constitutes municipal bodies in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay by enacting the relevant laws while forming relevant municipal bodies at different levels in capitals of regions and states and major cities as well as in garrison cities. These bodies are reliable driving forces for shaping the cities smart, lush and green under systematic waste systems to be free from hazardous events of pollution.

Mostly in monsoon, the solution containing various elements and chemical residues flows out from the unofficial landfills piled with undisciplined-disposed waste. Some kinds of solutions from the waste may be fatal and some hazard to the health of the people. The worsening location of waste may change the climatic conditions as well as destroy crop plantations.

Hence, non-governmental organizations and governmental organizations need to cooperate with each other in implementing the systematic arrangements for waste. Only when people, organizations and authorities at different levels comply with the waste management system will they face easily solving waste problems.

ARTICLE

Are you tired?



By Chit Ko Pe

I WAS used to juggling several tasks at different workplaces outdoors in the past. Despite the hassle, I enjoyed my busy days to the fullest on sites. I was above the moon.

With less outdoor work nowadays, I'm compelled to be glued to a desk almost all the time in the office. This deskbound job gets me sedentary and sluggish except for some bouts of going to a pantry or a washroom. Not get-

ting used to it, a state of mental or physical discomfort creeps in me after some time at the desk. Indeed, I feel exhausted. I feel drained. I feel fatigued. Yes, I'm tired.

Others may have experienced it either that way or another. It could be due to work-related factors such as work roster schedules, length of work shifts

and inadequate rest time, or personal abnormal lifestyles, or lack of essential nutrients, or poor health, or stress.

The change of work or non-routine work causes the disruption in human's biological clock in which circadian rhythm is lost out and hard to assimilate with it. Then, undue tiredness sets in. Sleep deprivation follows,

and so do some ill consequences of physical inability and mental impairment. Among them are: -

- persistent drowsiness,
- some extent of impatience,
- easy distraction,
- reduced instinct,
- shorter attentive time,
- slower reactive speed,
- proneness to error,
- increased clumsiness,
- unusual less conversation,
- poor judgement,
- stimulant usage and
- shortcut way resorted to complete jobs.

Those symptoms are precedent to the at-risk behaviour of a tired person whose subsequent unsafe act lies precariously compromising his or her own safety. There is a much likelihood of an accident occurring. Its risk shall not be underestimated either. The levels of risk can be low with minor injuries (bruises or lacerations) or medium with serious injuries (fractures or amputations) or catastrophic with fatality.

To tackle it, fellow colleagues/

workmates need to cultivate a spirit of comradeship and keep their alertness on each other alive on/off the job. Indeed, it is a buddy system that is to be nurtured and adopted in the workplace. In face of work exigencies or long work hours, a buddy system does suit well in the situation whereby immediate assistance from others is rendered by means of interruption, replacement, support and encouragement.

A self-care is a stronger tool to do away with tiredness. One needs to be mindful of his or her biological clock to function well with the following aspects.

High-Quality Sleep

Sleep disorders can take a toll on mental and physical health. The precautionary measures shall start with the identification of symptoms and sleep patterns. Then, improve day-time habits by taking regular physical exercise, limiting the intake of caffeine, alcohol and nicotine, and managing the stress well. When night falls, self-care continues

The menace of tiredness or fatigue is obviously taken too lightly by many of us, but it is secretly haunting everyone.

by avoiding heavy meals and drinks, making a bedroom quiet and dark, getting the mind and body ready for sleep, relaxing and listening to soothing music before sleep. If troubles persist, focus on in/out-breath or practice with meditation or other relaxation ways while laying in bed.

Well-Balanced Diet

We eat to live. But the kind of food matters for us to live well. It is a well-balanced diet that makes people healthier with a strong immune system. The stronger the immune system, the higher the haemoglobin levels. The latter makes oxygen easy to be carried to the body's tissues and muscles. It is advised to consume

iron-rich foods that increase oxygen supply. Such foods are listed with leafy green vegetables, beans, peas, lentils, nuts, whole grains, cereals, bread, meat and liver.

Regular Physical Exercise

Exercise serves itself as a way for fun and enhances health conditions at its end. Exercise boosts energy and arouses inner mobility that helps blood circulate well and strengthens the heart and lungs. Japanese firms here hold a radio broadcast of exercise for staff and workers early in the morning before work. It is warm-up callisthenics performed to music and guidance from radio broadcasts. It is learnt that in

Japan other different radio broadcasts are tailored to suit all ages as well as the elderly or disabled to perform whilst on a seat. The pursuit of light exercises such as walking or jogging is encouraged for beginners. Running an errand is also counted in.

Stress Control

Stress is a silent killer devouring mental and physical energy and decreasing the body's strength. Stress affects judgement and decision-making as well. Stress can be controlled by way of going to the spa for a pampering treatment or having a massage, or practising mindfulness such as tai chi, meditation, and yoga, or prioritizing and enjoying healthy meals, or spending leisure time with friends and family members, or exploring out in green nature - mountains or forests, or pampering with a watch on a television show or a read with a favourite book, or participating in community events on weekends, etc.

The menace of tiredness or fatigue is obviously taken too lightly by many of us, but it is secretly haunting everyone.

Take the tips to take on it!

Legalization and COVID lockdowns increase cannabis use: UN

CANNABIS legalization in parts of the world appears to have accelerated daily use and related health impacts, according to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)'s World Drug Report 2022. Released today, the report also details record rises in the manufacturing of cocaine, the expansion of synthetic drugs to new markets, and continued gaps in the availability of drug treatments, especially for women.

According to the report, around 284 million people aged 15-64 used drugs worldwide in 2020, a 26 per cent increase over the previous decade. Young people are using more drugs, with use levels today in many countries higher than with the previous generation. In Africa and Latin America, people under 35 represent the majority of people being treated for drug use disorders.

Globally, the report estimates that 11.2 million people worldwide were injecting drugs. Around half of this number were living with hepatitis C, 1.4 million were living

with HIV, and 1.2 million were living with both.

Reacting to these findings, UNODC Executive Director Ghada Waly stated: "Numbers for the manufacturing and seizures of many illicit drugs are hitting record highs, even as global emergencies are deepening vulnerabilities. At the same time, misperceptions regarding the magnitude of the problem and the associated harms are depriving people of care and treatment and driving young people towards harmful behaviours. We need to devote the necessary resources and attention to addressing every aspect of the world drug problem, including the provision of evidence-based care to all who need it, and we need to improve the knowledge base on how illicit drugs relate to other urgent challenges, such as conflicts and environmental degradation."

The report further emphasizes the importance of galvanizing the international community, governments, civil society and all stakeholders to take urgent ac-

tion to protect people, including by strengthening drug use prevention and treatment and by tackling illicit drug supply.

Early indications and effects of cannabis legalization

Cannabis legalization in North America appears to have increased daily cannabis use, especially potent cannabis products and particularly among young adults. Associated increases in people with psychiatric disorders, suicides and hospitalizations have also been reported. Legalization has also increased tax revenues and generally reduced arrest rates for cannabis possession.

Continued growth in drug production and trafficking

Cocaine manufacture was at a record high in 2020, growing 11 per cent from 2019 to 1,982 tons. Cocaine seizures also increased, despite the Covid-19 pandemic, to a record 1,424 tonnes in 2020. Nearly 90 per cent of cocaine seized globally in 2021 was traf-

ficked in containers and/or by sea. Seizure data suggest that cocaine trafficking is expanding to other regions outside the main markets of North America and Europe, with increased levels of trafficking to Africa and Asia.

Trafficking of methamphetamine continues to expand geographically, with 117 countries reporting seizures of methamphetamine in 2016-2020 versus 84 in 2006-2010. Meanwhile, the quantities of methamphetamine seized grew five-fold between 2010 and 2020.

Opium production worldwide grew seven per cent between 2020 and 2021 to 7,930 tons - predominantly due to an increase in production in Afghanistan. However, the global area under opium poppy cultivation fell by 16 per cent to 246,800 ha in the same period.

Key drug trends broken down by region

In many countries in Africa and South and Central America, the largest proportion of people



Marking a first for Asia, Thailand pulled cannabis from its list of narcotics on 9 June, making its import, export, production, distribution, consumption and possession legal. Patients wait to register for cannabidiol oil treatment during the opening of a cannabis clinic at the Department of Development of Thai Traditional and Alternative Medicine in Bangkok on 6 January 2020. PHOTO: AFP / MLADEN ANTONOV/FILE

in treatment for drug use disorders are there primarily for cannabis use disorders. In Eastern and South-Eastern Europe and in Central Asia, people are most often in treatment for opioid use disorders.

In the United States and Can-

ada, overdose deaths, predominantly driven by an epidemic of the non-medical use of fentanyl, continue to break records. Preliminary estimates in the United States point to more than 107,000 drug overdose deaths in 2021, up from nearly 92,000 in 2020.

In the two largest markets for methamphetamine, seizures have been increasing - they rose by seven per cent in North America from the previous year, while in South-East Asia they increased by 30 per cent from the previous year, record highs in both regions.

A record high was also reported for methamphetamine seizures reported from South-West Asia, increasing by 50 per cent in 2020 from 2019.

Great inequality remains in the availability of pharmaceutical opioids for medical consumption. In 2020, there were 7,500 more doses per 1 million inhabitants of controlled pain medication in North America than in West and Central Africa.

Conflict zones as magnets for synthetic drug production

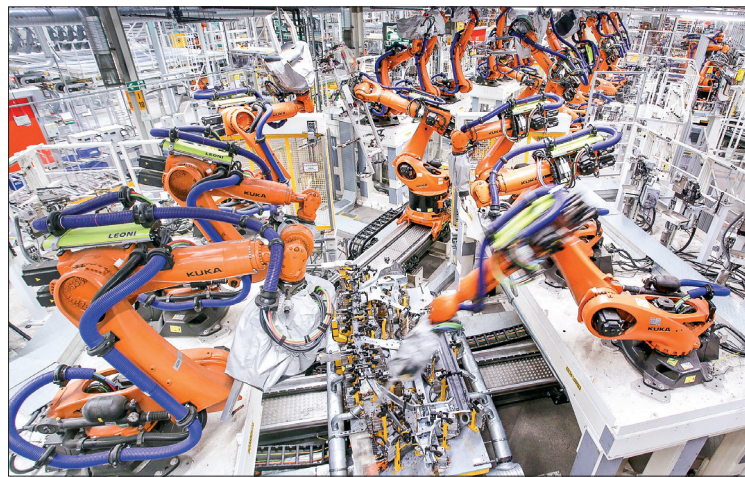
This year's report also highlights that illicit drug economies can flourish in situations of conflict and where the rule of law is weak, and in turn can prolong or fuel conflict. Information from the Middle East and South-East Asia suggest that conflict situations can act as a magnet for the manufacture of synthetic drugs, which can be produced anywhere. This effect may be greater when the conflict area is close to large consumer markets.

SOURCE: UNODC

ENVIRON WORLD

EU approves end of combustion engine sales by 2035

THE European Union approved a plan to end the sale of vehicles with combustion engines by 2035 in Europe, the 27-member bloc announced early Wednesday, in a bid to reduce CO2 emissions



EU approves plan for a complete shift to electric engines in the European Union from 2035. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

to zero.

The measure, first proposed in July 2021, will mean a de facto halt to sales of petrol and diesel cars as well as light commercial vehicles and a complete shift to electric engines in the European Union from 2035.

The plan is intended to help achieve the continent's climate objectives, in particular, carbon neutrality by 2050.

At the request of countries including Germany and Italy, the EU-27 also agreed to consider a future green light for the use of alternative technologies such as synthetic fuels or plug-in hybrids.

While approval would be tied to achieving the complete

elimination of greenhouse gas emissions, the technologies have been contested by environmental NGOs.

Environment ministers meeting in Luxembourg also approved a five-year extension of the exemption from CO2 obligations granted to so-called "niche" manufacturers, or those producing fewer than 10,000 vehicles per year, until the end of 2035.

The clause, sometimes referred to as the "Ferrari amendment", will benefit luxury brands in particular.

These measures must now be negotiated with members of the European Parliament.—AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Vietnam halts scuba diving off popular island to protect coral

VIETNAM has banned swimming and scuba diving at a popular central tourist spot in an attempt to revive its damaged coral reef, officials said Monday.

The communist nation boasts more than 3,200 kilometres of coastline with crystal clear waters, vibrant sea life and sandy beaches that are a huge tourism draw.

Coral reefs across Southeast Asia have been badly hit by global warming, with scientists warning their degradation could have devastating environmental and economic knock-on effects.

Recent photos taken off Hon Mun island — about 14 kilometres from the city of Nha Trang and popular with divers thanks to its diverse ecosystem — showed the reef bleached and damaged.—AFP

G7 to launch 'climate club' to tackle global warming

G7 leaders will create a "climate club" by the end of the year to allow willing nations to coordinate and speed up efforts to tackle global warming, they said in a statement Tuesday.

The club will be open to countries committed to the Paris agreement goal of limiting global temperature increases to 1.5 degrees Celsius and achieving carbon neutrality by 2050.

The club's establishment was agreed at the end of a three-day summit of the Group of Seven rich nations in the Bavarian Alps. German Chancellor and summit host Olaf Scholz, who spearheaded the proposal, said it would allow countries to acceler-



The Pau project will have the first bus line in the world equipped with 18-metre vehicles equipped with a hydrogen fuel cell engine. The new Febus hydrogen bus during its presentation in Pau, France. PHOTO: SNCF/AFP

ate climate action while avoiding competitive disadvantages.

"We agree that we need more ambition to achieve our climate goals," Scholz told reporters at the end of the summit

at Elmau Castle.

When countries develop national strategies to decarbonize their economies, "we want to ensure we do not work against each other and isolate ourselves from

each other", he said. This could be achieved by club members agreeing common carbon pricing standards or uniform standards on what constitutes green hydrogen, for instance.—AFP

Indonesian zoo breeds dozens of endangered baby Komodo dragons

AN Indonesian zoo has welcomed dozens of new baby Komodo dragons hatched in captivity in recent months as part of a breeding programme, its director said Tuesday, offering hope for efforts to conserve the endangered species.

The world's largest living lizards are found only in Indonesia's World Heritage-listed Komodo National Park and neighbouring Flores, and just 3,458 adult and baby species are left in the wild according to estimates.



Four of seven baby Komodos born at the Surabaya Zoo in Indonesia last week. PHOTO: AFP

The fearsome reptiles, which can grow to three metres (10 feet) in length and weigh up

to 90 kilogrammes (200 pounds), are threatened by human activity and climate change destroying their habitat.

But a breeding programme in Indonesia's second-largest city of Surabaya is trying to change that, successfully breeding 29 dragons in incubators between February and March.

"We have habitats that mirror the Komodo's natural habitat, including its humidity and temperature," zoo director Chairul Anwar told AFP.

The newborns were

hatched from two female Komodo dragons after their eggs were placed in incubators to prevent them from being eaten by their mothers or other Komodo dragons.

Female Komodos can fertilise an egg without the need for a male dragon.

The zoo started the programme in the 1990s as part of the effort to conserve the species in a city located more than 700 kilometres (434 miles) away from the dragon's natural habitat.—AFP

'Unimaginable': Austria prepares to reopen coal power station

AT the Mellach coal power plant in southern Austria, spider webs have taken over the conveyor belts, and plants and flowers have sprung up around the vast lot that once stored coal.

The plant, Austria's last coal-fuelled power station, was closed in the spring of 2020, but now the government—nervous that Russia may cut its crucial gas deliveries further—has decided to get the site ready again in case it's needed.

"I never would have imagined that we would restart the factory," Peter Probst, a 55-year-old welder, told AFP during a visit of the plant.

"It's really sad to be so dependent on gas," he added.

Europe had been trying to move away from coal in the fight against climate change. But as Russia has cut gas deliveries in the wake of sanctions the West has imposed on it for the war in Ukraine, European countries are turning back to coal.—AFP

S. Korea, Japan resume flights between capitals as COVID-19 eases

FLIGHTS between the capitals of South Korea and Japan resumed Wednesday after being suspended for more than two years due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Four airlines from the two countries -- Korean Air and Asiana Airlines of South Korea and Japan Airlines and All Nippon Airways -- started operating a total of eight round trips a week through the route between Seoul's Gimpo airport and To-

kyo's Haneda airport.

Kim Eun Jeong, an official of Asiana Airlines, said, "I hope (the flight resumption) will be a catalyst for overcoming coronavirus and revitalizing South Korea-Japan exchanges," prior to the departure of the first flight of the airline.

Kim Doo Hwan, head of the Seoul Regional Headquarters of the Korea Airports Corp., expressed the organization's expectation to restart flights

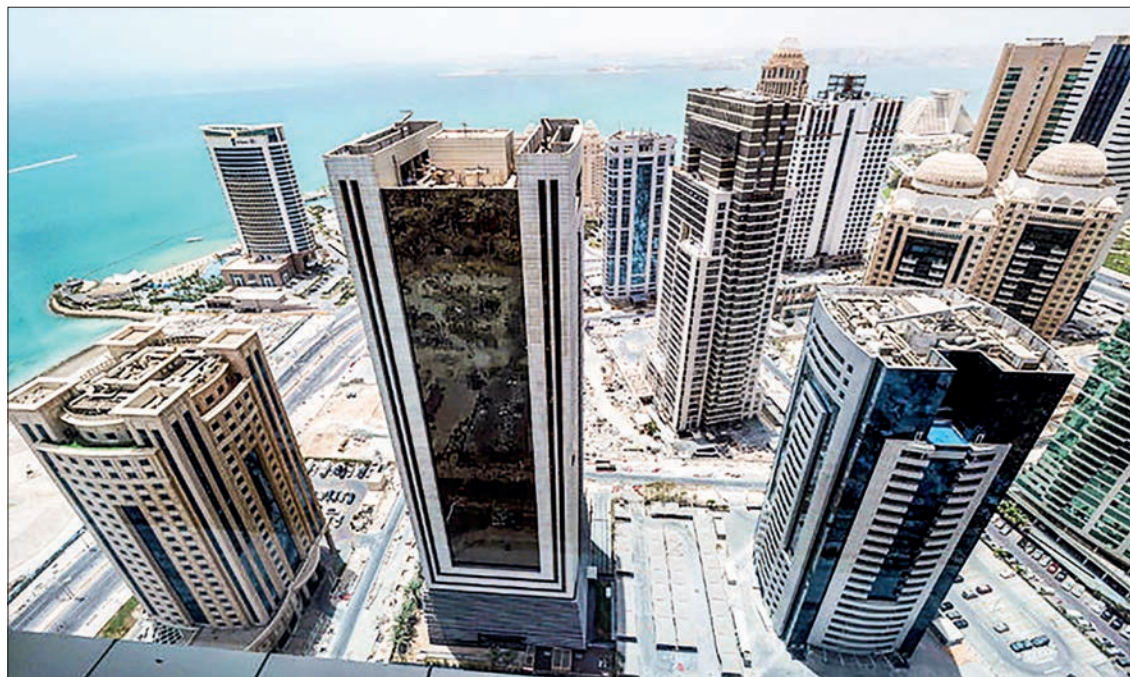
between Kansai and Seoul soon.

Seoul and Tokyo last week agreed to resume the route between Gimpo and Haneda airports, both close to their respective city centers, with hopes it would help boost exchanges between the two countries. South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol, an advocate of improving bilateral ties after years of friction over wartime issues, had shown a willingness to see the flights resume.—Kyodo



Passengers go through boarding procedures at Gimpo airport in Seoul on 29 June, 2022, as flights between the South Korean airport and Tokyo's Haneda airport partially reopened the same day following a more than two-year suspension due to the coronavirus pandemic. **PHOTO: KYODO**

WHO: Qatar World Cup pandemic risks being well run



This picture taken on 28 June 2022 from the Centara Hotel, which will host fans during the Qatar 2022 FIFA World Cup, shows a view of the "West Bay" complex of Doha. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE WHO voiced confidence Tuesday that hosts Qatar would successfully manage the COVID-19 risks at the 2022 football World Cup. There was no reason to think the pandemic risks would be higher at the November-December tournament than at other major events which have passed off safely, the World Health Organization's emergen-

cies director Michael Ryan said.

"Properly managed mass gatherings that have the proper planning can be run very safely," he told a live interaction on the WHO's Facebook page.

"We've been working very closely with the authorities in Qatar on that as WHO, and providing advice as needed to them on how to run a safe World Cup.

"The public health authorities in Qatar have been very engaged... on the public health risk management of the World Cup.

"Overall, the risks are being very carefully managed." Two million tickets will be sold in total, with another one million reserved for sponsors and the sport's global governing body FIFA.—AFP

Mexico sees 10 weeks of rising COVID-19 cases

MEXICO has seen 10 weeks of increase in COVID-19 cases though the hospitalization rate remains low, the Undersecretary of Prevention and Health Promotion Hugo Lopez-Gatell said Tuesday.

Deaths from the pandemic are also increasing at a slower pace compared to the past waves of outbreaks, said the Mexican official.

"Fortunately, hospitalizations are rising very little," Lopez-Gatell told reporters at the National Palace in Mexico City.

Hospital occupancy due to COVID-19 accounts for six per cent of total hospitalizations, according to official data.

Deaths have risen to an average of seven a day in recent weeks, up from an average of five, the official said.

Mexico registered its first case of COVID-19 at the end of February 2020, and logged 5,965,958 confirmed cases of the disease and 325,596 deaths as of 27 June.—Xinhua



Tourists enjoy a beach restaurant in Playa del Carmen, Quintana Roo state, Mexico, on 3 March 2021, amid the coronavirus pandemic. **PHOTO: DANIEL SLIM / AFP**

Bangladesh to vaccinate kids aged 5-12 amid fresh surge in COVID-19 cases

BANGLADESH has decided to start administering COVID-19 vaccines to children aged 5-12 amid a fresh surge in COVID-19 cases.

Bangladeshi Health and Family Welfare Minister Zahid

Maleque made the announcement on Wednesday, saying the initiative will start next month.

"We'll start the vaccination programme in the last week of July," he said at a news conference.

"We'll soon procure vaccines and syringes suitable for children," Maleque said.

In order to receive vaccination, children aged 5-12 will have to register using their birth certificate on the government's (Su-

rokkha) app.

Bangladesh's Cabinet Division on Tuesday issued a circular with the six-point directives to contain the fresh outbreak of the pandemic.

In line with the directives,

people must wear masks at all gatherings, shopping malls and restaurants under the "No mask, no service" policy. Those who bear any symptoms are encouraged to get themselves tested for COVID-19.—Xinhua

ECONOMY WORLD

ECB vows to counter 'undesirably high' inflation

THE European Central Bank will go "as far as necessary" to fight inflation that is set to remain "undesirably high" for "some time to come", its president said Tuesday.

Soaring inflation is "a great challenge", ECB President Christine Lagarde said in a speech at the bank's annual conference on monetary policy.

"We will go as far as necessary to ensure that inflation stabilizes at our two-per-cent target over the medium term," Lagarde said.

Consumer prices rose at an 8.1-per-cent pace in the eurozone in May, an all-time high for the currency club.

The surge has been driven higher by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and the ensuing rise in the cost of energy and food.

The present level of inflation in industrial and agricultural goods has "not been seen since the mid-1980s", Lagarde said in the speech in the Portuguese resort of Sintra.



The Euro currency sign is seen in front of the former European Central Bank (ECB) building as a tramway drives past, in Frankfurt am Main, western Germany, on 3 February 2022. **PHOTO: ANDRE PAIN / AFP**

The rise in the cost of energy was also "much higher than the individual spikes that occurred in the 1970s" during the oil shock, she said. Inflation pressures are "intensifying and broadening", Lagarde warned, while nominal wage growth has started to "pick up".

At the same time, real wages are being "squeezed" by infla-

tion, while economic turbulence is weighing on growth, Lagarde said. But the central bank still expects the eurozone to swerve a recession and for growth rates to remain positive.

At the ECB's last meeting, policymakers under pressure to respond to inflation agreed to the bank's first interest rate hike in over a decade. — AFP

Russia guarantees supply of fertilizers to Brazil

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin on Monday promised his Brazilian counterpart Jair Bolsonaro that Russia "is committed" to maintaining its delivery of much-needed fertilizers to the South American agricultural giant.

Speaking in Brasilia, Bolsonaro said the two leaders had discussed by telephone "food se-

curity" and "energy insecurity", without giving more details.

In its own statement on the conversation, the Kremlin said Putin "stressed that Russia is committed to carry out its obligations to guarantee the uninterrupted delivery of Russian fertilizers to Brazilian farmers".

The statement added that Putin asked for "the restoration

of the architecture of free commerce of food products and fertilizers that have collapsed due to Western sanctions" against Russia over its invasion of Ukraine.

A global agricultural power, Brazil imports more than 80 per cent of its fertilizers — a figure that rises to 96 per cent in the case of potassium — according to the agriculture ministry.

More than 20 per cent of those fertilizer imports come from Russia.

But the Western sanctions imposed on Russia over the invasion of Ukraine, which began in February, sparked fears in Brazil that its supply of fertilizers could be affected.

Bolsonaro's government also announced the start of negotiations with alternative suppliers, mainly Canada, Jordan, Egypt and Morocco, while adding that domestic production would be increased.—AFP



The maize production of a farm is loaded on trucks in Guarapuava, Parana, southern Brazil **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

US should be held responsible for creating "debt trap": FM spokesperson

CHINESE Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian on Monday said that, to call China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) a debt trap is a false narrative, and it is the United States that should be held responsible for creating the "debt trap".

Zhao made the remarks at a daily news briefing when responding to US accusations against BRI.

"To call the BRI a debt trap is a false narrative," said Zhao.

He stressed that, for nine years since its inception, the BRI has followed the princi-

ple of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits and delivered tangible benefits to partner countries and their peoples.

According to World Bank forecast, if all BRI transport infrastructure projects are carried out, by 2030, the BRI will generate 1.6 trillion US dollars of revenues for the world, or 1.3 per cent of global GDP. Up to 90 per cent of the revenues will go to partner countries, said Zhao.

The BRI could contribute to lifting 7.6 million people from extreme poverty and 32 million from moderate poverty from 2015 to 2030, he said.—Xinhua



Builders work at the construction site of Davuilevu residential project in Suva, Fiji, 7 Oct 2020. **PHOTO: XINHUA/ZHANG YONGXING/FILE**

Global agrifood market more balanced, but trade costs must fall: FAO

REDUCING trade costs would help boost sustainable development in the agrifood sector, enhancing integration and transformation especially in low-income economies, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said in a flagship report Tuesday.

"A robust and well-integrated global agrifood system can help all countries withstand unprecedented challenges, as evidenced during the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020, when global agri-

food markets proved to be remarkably resilient," the FAO said in its latest State of Agricultural Commodity Markets (SOCO 2022) report.

Compared to 1995, "more countries today trade with each other, and the global agrifood market is more balanced".

While globalization was seen as losing steam after 2008, regional integration has increased in the same period thanks to a rising number of regional deals, it said.—Xinhua

Toyota domestic output drops on parts crunch due to Shanghai lockdown

TOYOTA Motor Corp. said Wednesday its domestic output in May fell 28.5 per cent from a year earlier to 144,204 vehicles, declining for the third straight month due to a global chip shortage and a parts supply crunch caused by a COVID-19 lockdown in Shanghai.

The rate of decline was the biggest since January when domestic output fell 32.2 per cent from the previous year, the major Japanese automaker said.

Toyota had to suspend

operations at some of its factories in Japan because the lockdown had made it difficult to procure parts.

Toyota said its global output in May fell 5.3 per cent from a year earlier to 634,940 units, falling short of its production target of about 700,000 vehicles after its production in South Africa was affected by flooding.

Although the Shanghai lockdown was lifted on 1 June, Toyota's production continues to be affected by the strain on parts supply from the Chi-



The Toyota Fine (Fuel cell INnovation Emotion) or FINE, is a series of concept cars from the Toyota Motor Corporation which use fuel cell technology. PHOTO: KYODO

nese city.

Meanwhile, rivals Nissan Motor Co. and Honda Motor Co. increased domestic production significantly in May from a year earlier as they ramped up operations at their factories.

Nissan's domestic output jumped 77.9 per cent to 26,799 units as a new model of its Note compact car boosted sales. Honda saw its output rise 57.7 per cent to 37,285 vehicles, showing a sharp rebound from a year ago when domestic production decreased sharply.—Kyodo

Michelin tyre group to give up Russia business

FRENCH tyre group Michelin said Tuesday it plans to transfer its activities in Russia to local management, the latest foreign firm to exit the country following Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

Hundreds of Western companies ranging from furniture store Ikea to fast-food chain McDonald's and sports retailer Nike have



Michelin is the second biggest tyre maker in the world following Bridgestone. PHOTO: AFP
left Russia since the war erupted in late February and sanctions were imposed on Moscow.

Michelin cited supply chain problems as the main reason behind its decision to give up business in Russia.

"After suspending its manufacturing activities in Russia on 15 March, Michelin now confirms that it is technically impossible to resume production, due in particular to supply issues, amid a context of

general uncertainty," the tyre company said in a statement.

"The Group is therefore compelled to plan the transfer of all of its Russian operations by the end of 2022," it said.

The new entity would operate through an independent structure from Michelin, the company added.—AFP

GlobalWafers announces plans for massive US plant

CHINESE Taipei's GlobalWafers on Monday unveiled plans to establish a massive plant in northern Texas to produce a component vital to making semiconductors with an investment of up to US\$5 billion.

However, the plan to produce silicon wafers, which would reinforce fragile supplies of computer chips, is contingent largely on legislation pending in the US Congress.

"With the global chips shortage and ongoing geopolitical concerns, GlobalWafers is taking this

opportunity to address the United States semiconductor supply chain resiliency," GW Chairperson and CEO Doris Hsu said in a statement.

"Instead of importing wafers from Asia, GlobalWafers USA (GWA) will produce and supply wafers locally."

The material is used to produce chips needed for everything from cars to smartphones, and the global shortage in recent months has been a factor in driving up US prices.—AFP

Renesas ties up with India's Tata Motors to develop automotive chips

JAPANESE chipmaker Renesas Electronics Corp. said Wednesday it has partnered with Indian automaker Tata Motors Ltd. to develop and man-

ufacture semiconductors for use in electric and connected vehicles.

Renesas has also tied up with Tejas Networks Ltd., a data network

company of Indian conglomerate Tata Group, for designing and developing chips for next-generation 5G wireless networks, according to the Japanese

company.

After initially focusing on India, the companies plan to market their products and solutions globally.—Kyodo

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V MCC SHENZHEN VOY.NO. (224W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCC SHENZHEN VOY.NO. (224W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **30-6-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA TPE., LTD.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V MAERSK NASSJO VOY.NO. (223W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MAERSK NASSJO VOY.NO. (223W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **30-6-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA TPE., LTD.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V HORIZON VOY.NO. (16)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V HORIZON VOY.NO. (16)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **30-6-2022** 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

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Scotland sets October 2023 for new independence vote



Sturgeon's statement came as Queen Elizabeth II was unexpectedly in Scotland for a week of ceremonial events. **PHOTO: ANDY BUCHANAN/AFP**

SCOTLAND'S government on Tuesday drew the battle lines for a legal and political tussle with London as it announced plans to hold a second independence referendum on 19 October 2023.

Addressing the Edinburgh parliament, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon conceded that her devolved administration may lack the power to call the vote without London's approval.

To ensure legal clarity, it will seek an opinion from the UK Supreme Court before it asks voters: "Should Scotland be an independent country?"

The phrasing of the question was the same as Scottish voters were asked in 2014. Then, they agreed to stay in

the United Kingdom, and Prime Minister Boris Johnson's UK government says that settled the matter for a generation.

But Sturgeon's Scottish National Party (SNP) says the UK's divorce from the European Union, following a 2016 referendum, has transformed the debate.

Most Scottish voters were opposed to Brexit, and the SNP-led government said that with a majority in the Edinburgh parliament now in favour of independence, Scots should be consulted again.

Sturgeon stressed that the "consultative referendum" would only proceed with the approval of the UK Supreme Court.—AFP

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Russia to block renewal of OSCE's Ukraine mission

RUSSIA will by Thursday midnight block the renewal of the OSCE permanent mission in Ukraine, ending a 23-year presence in the war-torn country, say diplomatic sources.

Russia "has the power to block the mandate at the end of June and it said it was going to do so", Danish ambassador Henrik Villadsen, the mission's project coordinator since 2018, told AFP.

He was confirming an earlier statement from the Polish rotating chairmanship of the institution, which said: "Unfortunately it formally ends in seven days due to the Russian veto."

The mission of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) helps Ukraine bring its legislation, institutions and practices into line with democratic standards.

It employs 110 people,

mostly Ukrainians, on about 40 projects. Their work includes improving water quality, de-mining work, fighting human trafficking, corruption and domestic violence, said Villadsen.

"The OSCE is an incubator developing practices that do not yet exist," said Villadsen, who had an annual budget of 3.6 mil-

lion euros for the projects.

"From 2010, for example, we worked to ensure that Ukraine joined international standards," in terms of mine clearance.

The OSCE also supported the country in the digitization of its electoral lists to create a unified register to avoid fraud.—AFP



The OSCE Special Monitoring Mission was launched in March 2014 in response to the crisis in and around Ukraine. **PHOTO: OSCE/EVGENIY MALOLETKA/AFP**

Kyiv's plans to ban works in Russian divide book lovers

UKRAINE plans to ban many books in Russian as part of a wartime battle against propaganda, but the new law has divided both literature fans and

booksellers alike. "We must not confuse Russian fascism with Russian culture," said Olexander Drobin, a bookseller at the massive Petrivka book market

in the capital, Kyiv. "They made this law but nobody knows how to apply it. Should we take these books, pile them up in the street and burn them?"—AFP

Ukraine war dominates crucial NATO summit

NATO leaders were set Wednesday to invite Finland and Sweden to join after Turkey dropped objections, as the alliance looked to revamp its defences at a summit dominated by the war in Ukraine.

More than four months after Russia invaded Ukraine, upending the European security landscape, leaders gather in Madrid for what NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg called a "historic and transformative summit" for the alliance's future.

Ukrainian President Volod-

myr Zelensky is set to address the meeting via videolink to renew Kyiv's pleas for accelerated weapons deliveries from its allies.

NATO countries, which have already committed billions of dollars in military assistance to Kyiv, will agree a "comprehensive assistance package to Ukraine, to help them uphold the right for self-defence". "We meet in the midst of the most serious security crisis we have faced since the Second World War," Stoltenberg said.—AFP

Putin to visit Tajikistan this week: spokesman

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin will travel to Tajikistan on Tuesday, his spokesman said, his first trip abroad since Moscow launched its military operation in Ukraine.

"A working visit by President Putin is scheduled for tomorrow in Tajikistan," Dmitry Peskov said on Monday of the visit to the former Soviet republic and Moscow ally.

Putin is also expected in Turkmenistan on Wednesday for a summit of countries bordering

the Caspian Sea. His last foreign visit dates back to 4-5 February, when he travelled to China to meet his counterpart Xi Jinping and attend the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympics. Just over two weeks later, Putin launched his "special military operation" in Ukraine.

Since then the Kremlin leader has not ventured abroad, even to meet close ally Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko. Lukashenko has visited Russia several times.—AFP

Israel heads towards snap election, Lapid poised to be PM

ISRAEL'S parliament is expected to dissolve Wednesday, ending Prime Minister Naftali Bennett's year-long tenure and triggering a fifth election in less than four years that could see ex-premier Benjamin Netanyahu reclaim power.

Barring an 11th hour shock agreement to save the coalition or form a new government within the existing parliament, Bennett's eight-party alliance is due to end by midnight, installing Foreign Minister Yair Lapid as prime minister.

The former television anchor is set to head a caretaker government, ahead of polls due in late October or early November.

Bennett's motley alliance formed in 2021 offered a reprieve from an unprecedented era of political gridlock, ending Net-



Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett is expected to hand over power to Foreign Minister Yair Lapid after parliament dissolves itself. **PHOTO: RONEN ZVULUN / POOL / AFP**

anyahu's record 12 consecutive years in power and passing Israel's first state budget since 2018.

Netanyahu — a divisive hawk aligned with far-right nationalists and Israel's ultra-Orthodox Jewish parties — has

promised victory in new elections but may again struggle to rally a parliamentary majority, multiple polls have shown.

He is currently on trial over corruption charges, which he denies. —AFP

UK orders Heathrow airport to cut landing fees

BRITAIN'S aviation regulator on Tuesday ordered London Heathrow airport to cut landing fees, in the hope that airlines will reduce fares. Bucking the trend of higher

costs as inflation soars, the Civil Aviation Authority said Heathrow must cut charges as air traffic demand recovers.

"Today's announcement is

about doing the right thing for consumers," CAA chief executive Richard Moriarty said in a statement. In final proposals, the watchdog said the price per passenger would gradually fall 13 per cent to £26.31 (\$32.30) by 2026.

Landing charges paid by airlines to Heathrow are generally included in air fares.

"Heathrow is among the most expensive airports in the world for its charges to airlines," the CAA added. Heathrow chief executive John Holland-Kaye said the "proposal will only result in passengers getting a worse experience at Heathrow as investment in service dries up". —AFP



A British Airways passenger jet comes in to land at London Heathrow Airport in west London. **PHOTO: ADRIAN DENNIS / AFP / FILE**

Iran reports making 'world's largest' kilim rug

IRAN announced Monday that weavers in the southern province of Fars had produced the world's largest kilim rug, measuring an enormous 105 square metres (more than 1,100 square feet).

The 7x15-metre kilim was the handiwork of seven expert weavers and three assistants

in the town of Qirokarzin, said Mohammad-Jafar Ebrahimi, the local cultural heritage chief, as quoted on state television.

He said it was commissioned by the energy-rich Gulf state of Qatar.

Kilims, which are flat and not knotted, have traditionally

been woven by hand by nomads in Turkey, the Caucasus, Iran, Afghanistan and Turkmenistan, for use in tents. According to statistics provided by state news agency IRNA, the export of Iran's world-renowned carpets raise between \$400 million and \$500 million a year. —AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Two suspects killed, six officers injured in Canada bank robbery

TWO suspected bank robbers were killed Tuesday during a shoot-out with police in western Canada that left six officers injured, local authorities said, adding that a possible third suspect was still missing.

"This remains an ongoing police incident with the heavy police presence in the area," said Saanich police chief Dean Duthie at a press conference.

Around 11 am (1800 GMT), two armed suspects entered a bank in Saanich, a city of approximately 114,000 outside the British Columbia capital of Victoria, police said in a statement.

"Multiple officers responded to the scene and encountered the armed suspects who fired at police. Two suspects were shot by police and died at the scene," the statement said, adding that no bank employees or members of the public were physically injured.

"It's hard because we have members in the hospital right now suffering from serious injuries," Duthie said.

He noted that, as of late Tuesday, three of the six injured officers were undergoing surgery, while the other three may be released from the hospital.

Earlier in the day, an evacuation order was issued for the buildings surrounding the bank because of a suspected explosive device found in the suspects' vehicle.

The day's events will "shake a lot of people," said Duthie, adding that federal police had been called to assist. — AFP

First ever 'Africa Fashion' exhibition opens in London

BRITAIN'S most extensive exhibition of African fashion is set to open in London, showcasing designers past and present, as well as the continent's diverse heritage and cultures.

"Africa Fashion", at the Victoria and Albert (V&A) Museum from Saturday, is also the country's first exhibition dedicated to the medium.

Project curator Elisabeth Murray said the show will provide a "glimpse into the glamour and politics of the fashion scene".

"We wanted to celebrate the amazing African fashion scene today. So the creativity of all the designers, stylists, photographers, and looking at the inspiration behind that," she told AFP.

Included in the exhibition are objects, sketches, photos and film from across the continent, starting from the African liberation years in the 1950s to 1980s to up-and-coming contemporary designers.

Senior curator Christine Checinska has called it "part of the V&A's ongoing commitment to foreground work by African heritage creatives". —AFP



Iranian women work on weaving the largest kilim in the world in Qirokarzin, in the southern Fars province. **PHOTO: FARZANEH CHAKHMAGH ZAS / IRAN'S YOUNG JOURNALISTS CLUB / AFP**



Lukaku 'very happy' as he arrives in Milan ahead of Inter return



Romelu Lukaku said he was "very happy" to be back after the Belgian international striker arrived in Milan on Wednesday morning ahead of his return to Inter Milan on loan from Chelsea. **PHOTO: IKIMAGES/AFP**

ROMELU Lukaku said he was "very happy" to be back after the Belgian international striker arrived in Milan on Wednesday ahead of his return to Inter Milan on loan from Chelsea.

A beaming Lukaku emerged from Linate airport in the early hours of Wednesday morning and gave his short but delighted response to the handful of reporters awaiting his arrival.

The 29-year-old will undergo a medical later in the day before making his long-awaited Inter comeback official.

Chelsea agreed to a reported deal in which Inter will pay an initial eight million euros (\$8.42 million) plus a further potential three million euros in bonuses for the loan.

Lukaku will again lead Inter's attack as they attempt to regain the Serie A title after taking a pay cut -- a reported 8.5 million euros for the coming campaign.

Lukaku leaves London after failing to make an impression for a second time at Chelsea, not meeting high expectations following a £97.5 million move from

Inter last summer.

He had made himself a fan favourite over two years at Inter after scoring 64 times in 95 games and driving them to their first Serie A title in over a decade, the 2021 Scudetto ending both an 11-year drought and Juventus' grip on Italian football.

However the financial problems of Inter's owners the Suning Group, exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic led to coach Antonio Conte leaving the club almost as soon as the title was won.—AFP

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.

Serena's career at a crossroads after Wimbledon defeat



Seven-time Wimbledon champion Serena Williams crashed out in the first round at the All England Club. **PHOTO: AFP**

WITH her 41st birthday just months away and without a Grand Slam title since 2017, Serena Williams faces searching questions over her future after a painful first-round Wimbledon exit.

The American was back on Centre Court on Tuesday after a year away from singles tennis but it was a miserable return to the scene of some of

her greatest triumphs.

The 23-time major winner was cheered as she entered the court and supported throughout by a crowd desperate to see her recapture former glories against unseeded Harmony Tan of France.

But she looked a pale shadow of her former self, making 54 unforced errors in an uncharacteristically sloppy display that ended with a tame forehand dumped into the net.

Despite her lack of form and fitness, Serena, who lost 7-5, 1-6, 7-6 (10/7), looked to have the match in her grasp at various points.

She served for victory when 5-4 up in the decider and even in the tie-break raced into a 4-0 lead before her game fell apart. —AFP

Rakhine United beat ISPE FC 3-1 in MNL 2022

RAKHINE United made a win over ISPE FC 3-1 in their debut match in 2022 Myanmar National League Day-4 at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon yesterday.

The ISPE FC, made up of local players, won the opening game of the season. The team is headed by head coach U Chit Naing won with come-from-behind action.

Rakhine United has recruited foreign players but could not do much and lost the opening match.

Rakhine team scored the first goal in the first five minutes of the match and Zaw Zaw Naing scored from the penalty spot.

Despite conceding a goal, Khin Kyaw Win scored the equalizer in the 21st minute for ISPE FC.

After that, the match was

reciprocal, but the ISPE had more chances to score and the winning goal was scored after 80 minutes.

Pyae Phyo Khaing scored in the 81st minute and Khin Kyaw Win in the 89th minute for ISPE.

Towards the end of the

match, Zaw Zaw Naing from Rakhine team and Zin Ye Naung from ISPE were sent off due to the rough play.

Yadanabon FC will play against GFA FC today 3pm at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon.

— Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM



A Rakhine United player (silver) struggles to get the ball against ISPE player (yellow) during their MNL 2022 match at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 29 June 2022. **PHOTO: MNL**