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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.

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds meeting with Head of St Petersburg Government



State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets Head of the Government from St Petersburg Mr Alexander Beglov at the latter's office in St Petersburg on 14 July 2022.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, who is currently in the Russian Federation, held a meeting with Head of the Government from St Petersburg Mr Alexander Beglov at his office on 14 July.

At the meeting, the St Petersburg Government frankly welcomed the SAC Chairman

Prime Minister and delegation members and explained 75-year-old good relations between Russia and Myanmar. They cordially exchanged views on further cooperation of St Petersburg-based companies in agriculture, health-care service, education, tourism development, economic development and cultural sectors for the propagation of religions in

Myanmar, efforts of the State Administration Council for ensuring peace, tranquillity and development of the State by adopting the five-point roadmap and nine objectives in addition to good policies, and endeavours of the Russian Federation to protect national interests. The Head of Government of St Petersburg on behalf of all Russian nationals

expressed thanks to Myanmar for a friendly act in allowing visa exemption for Russians on 1 July, the implementation of the plan to establish a Myanmar consulate-general in St Petersburg, and further cooperation at the state level, regional level and then national level.

After the meeting, the Senior General and the Head of the

St Petersburg Government replied to queries raised by Russian media.

The Head of the St Petersburg Government conducted the Senior General and party round the government office and explained facts about offices and office setups of previous State leaders. — MNA

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Real Freedom

“... We want real freedom and not tinsel and sham of it. When we say real freedom, we mean the freedom not only to plan our political destiny but also the economy and defence of our country by ourselves ...”

(Excerpt from the address made by Bogyoke Aung San at the 2nd session of the Supreme Council of AFPFL, 16 May 1946)



Myanmar National Flag to hoist at half-mast on 75th Martyrs' Day

THE State Administration Council has informed all government offices and organizations to hoist the Flag of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at half-mast across the country, and MRTV national television channel to sound sirens at 10:37 am to commemorate the fallen leaders as a symbol of grief, on 19 July, Tuesday 2022 (75th Martyrs' Day).

At that time, vehicles on road must stop for a while and honk their horns too, it is learnt. — MNA

Dagon University signs MoU with Gifu University of Japan

A signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Science Departments of Dagon University and those under the Engineering Faculty of Gifu University, Japan, was held at the meeting hall of the Rector's Office in Dagon University yesterday.

The signing ceremony was attended by Dr Thar Tun Maung, Rector of Dagon University, pro-rectors, heads of departments, professors and heads of the academic and administrative department.

Then, Vice-President Dr Shinji Kambara of Gifu University, Japan, Head Prof Dr Toshiaki Murai of the Faculty of Engineering and heads of the Science Departments took part in the meeting through video conferencing.

Prof Dr Soe Moe Lwin, the Secretary of International Relations Office and Joint Secretary Lecturer Daw May Thu Maung Maung act as master of ceremonies during the ceremony.

Afterwards, the rector of Dagon University and the

vice-president of Gifu University gave opening remarks respectively and discussed implementing further steps including the organization of scientific research and training exchange trips for students, scientific research conferences with scientists, co-hosting of fora and courses and the publication of the research results in research journals.

Later, both institutions signed the MoU and took a commemorative group photo together to record the event. — MNA



An MoU inking ceremony between Dagon University and Gifu University of Japan is in progress.

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*

Tatmadaw is also steering and monitoring to be straightforward on building the Union Republic rooted in democracy and 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 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 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)

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits PJSC Kazan Helicopters Plant, HIMGRAD Industrial Complex

THE delegation led by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 13 July visited the Kazan Aircraft Production Association and HIMGRAD Industrial Complex in Kazan of the Republic of Tatarstan.

On arrival at the PJSC Kazan Helicopters Plant, Managing Director Mr Vladimir Ginsburg conducted the Senior General and party round the production belt where the Senior General asked what he wanted to know. The Senior General visited the helicopter test driving chamber with the use of a simulator and drove it.

PJSC Kazan Helicopters Plant was established in 1940,



The Senior General and his wife are seen off at Kazan Airport before leaving for St Petersburg.

dates of honour and medals from 1945 to 2020. At the HIMGRAD Industrial Complex, General Director Airat Mansurovich explained the undertaking of the complex for doing business, and the Senior General asked what he wanted to know.

The Senior General heard reports on raw materials produced by businesses from the complex, household utensils, medicines, oil and natural gas electronic equipment, fertilizers, pharmaceutical materials, and personal goods presented by officials. After hearing the reports of officials, the Senior General discussed the situation for trading with Myanmar.

The Senior General viewed the UAV manufacturing workshop for agricultural tasks, military transport and battlefield bullet-proof vehicles and engines. At the Organic Plant to produce fertilizers, the Senior General visited and discussed the situation to do cooperation with the plant. In the evening, the Senior General and party left Kazan Airport of Kazan of the Republic of Tatarstan for Saint Petersburg by air. At Pulkovo International Airport of St Petersburg, the Senior General and party were welcomed by officials of the government office of St Petersburg. — MNA



The Senior General views round the PJSC Kazan Helicopters Plant.

and it was one of the parts of the Russian Helicopters Company owned by the Rostac Corporation. Up to now, it has manufactured more than 12,000 Mi-4, Mi-8, Mi-14, Mi-17 and Ansat helicopters and exported them to more than 100 countries. The plant joined the Russian Helicopters Joint Venture Company which would be the main share-holder in 2007. Now, the plant is carrying out the pilot construction of the Mi-38 medium multipurpose helicopter and many productions. It has so far secured more than 27 certifi-



The Senior General looks into the UAV manufacturing workshop for agricultural purposes, military transport and battlefield bullet-proof vehicles and engines.



SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party visit State Polytechnic University, Peterhof Palace

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party currently in the Russian Federation visited significant places in St Petersburg such as the State Polytechnic University and the Peterhof Palace on 14 July.

Rector of the university Mr Andrey Ivanovich Rudskoy and officials explained layout plans of buildings on the campus, subject-wise lecturing and logistic measures for students with the use of scale models.

At the meeting hall, the rector clarified the undertakings of the university, plan to cooperate with Myanmar in the science and technology sector, plan to link with technological universities in Yangon and Mandalay, and admission of trainees from Myanmar till 2006 and resumption of education cooperation with momentum. The Senior General discussed the learning of scholarship students from Myanmar in the Russian Federation, current attending of students, sending of students to the State Polytechnic University and further promotion of education cooperation.

While visiting the university, the Senior General heard clarifications on the capacity of



The Senior General looks into the layout plans of buildings on the campus of the State Polytechnic University in St Petersburg on 14 July.

amphibious vehicles designed by the university, measuring of earthquakes, oil and natural gas deposits, a 3D calculation based on data from UAVs and planes, drawing, aerospace calculation and diagnostics with the use of the supercomputer, capacity of which is equal to more than 10,000 computers and running of the metal production plant.

St Petersburg State Polytechnic University, the Russian technological university, is called Peter the Great Polytechnic Institute and the Kalinin Polytech-

nic Institute. It was established in 1899, turning out many noble award winners. It is formed with engineering, physics, and economic and social divisions where more than 30,000 students from the United States of America, Britain, Germany, Finland, Sweden and other CIS countries are pursuing education.

The Senior General and party left for the Peterhof Palace from Peterhof Express Port by Hydrofoil. They visited the palace and posed for documentary photos.

The Peterhof Palace was built by King Peter within 10 years to show the powerful strength of Russia after conquering the Russia-Sweden war. UNESCO recognized the palace as a historical site in 1990. It is formed with 173 water fountains and golden statues. King Peter used it as the summer palace. A canal was dug directly from the sea to the foot of the palace. The design of water fountains shows the wonderful architectural works of Russians.

In the Second World War, the palace was damaged by bomb

attacks, damaging many parts. In 1945, the palace was reopened for public recreation. The palace and water fountains were renovated in 1950, and they are under maintenance up to date. The water fountains are open in summer only.

Wives of senior military officers, outstanding award winner male and female officers who accompanied the Senior General visited the parliamentary building, Onegin arts gallery and other significant places in St Petersburg. — MNA

MoD Union Minister meets officers, other ranks and families in Lahe



MoD Union Minister General Mya Tun Oo observes the COVID-19 vaccination at the Lahe People's Hospital.

STATE Administration Council member Union Minister for Defence General Mya Tun Oo, accompanied by the Sagaing Region chief minister and the commander of the Sagaing Command, met officers, other ranks and their families of the local station in Lahe of the Naga Self-Administered Zone, Sagaing Region, and provided food aids and COVID-19 prevention gear on 14 July.

The Union minister and party then arrived at the Lahe People's Hospital and observed the COVID-19 vaccination for local people. He also met town elders, local ethnic people, and traditional cultural troupes at

the Naga Traditional Literature and Culture Museum in Lahe and discussed regional development activities. The Union minister and party also visited the Women's Vocational School in Lahe and provided cash assistance and food to departmental officials. He cordially greeted trainees and those present at the meeting and observed the artistic creation of the trainees. In the evening, the Union minister, accompanied by the Union Election Commission Chairman and officials went to the Theravada Buddhist Missionary Monastery and Nunnery in Lahe and provided offertories. — MNA

Inter-State/Region Sepak Takraw finals, award-giving ceremony held

THE 2022 Inter-State/Region Sepak Takraw finals and the award-giving ceremony, jointly organized by the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs and the Myanmar Sepak Takraw Federation, were held yesterday afternoon at the (C) gymnasium of Wunna Theikdi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw.

The ceremony was attended by members of the State Administration Council Daw Aye Nu Sein, Jeng Phang Naw Taung, U MOUNG HAR, U Sai Lone Hsai, Dr Banyar Aung Moe and U Shwe Kyein, Union ministers, deputy ministers, departmental officials, officials from the Myanmar Sepak Takraw Federation, region/state coaches and athletes.

In the final matches, the Sagaing Region team won against the Yangon Region Team in the men's regu event. In the competition of the women's regu event, the Ayeyawady Region team won against the Yangon Region Team.

After the competitions, the awarding ceremony was held. Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs U Saw Tun Aung Myint awarded the Mandalay Region



One match of the Inter-State/ Region Sepak Takraw finals is in action in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Team which won the second prize in the men's double regu competition and the Yangon Region Team which won the third prize in the competition. Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Htay Aung awarded the Sagaing Region Team which won the first prize in the men's regu event.

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Thet Thet Khine awarded the Mon State Team

which won the second prize in the women's double regu event and the Ayeyawady Region Team which won the third prize in the competition. Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan awarded the Yangon Region Team which won the first prize.

Union Minister at the Union Government Office (2) U Chitt Naing awarded the Nay Pyi Taw Council Territory Team, the Sagaing Region Team, and

the Bago Region Team, which won the first, second and third prizes respectively in the men's regu event.

SAC Member U Shwe Kyein awarded the Kachin Region Team, the Mon State Team, and the Nay Pyi Taw Council Team, which won the first, second, and third prizes respectively in the men's double regu event.

Afterwards, SAC Member Dr Banyar Aung Moe awarded the Sagaing Region Team, the

Yangon Region Team and the Nay Pyi Taw Council Territory Team, which won the first, second and third prizes respectively in the men's regu event. SAC Member U Sai Lone Hsai awarded the Ayeyawady Region Team, the Yangon Region Team, and the Bago Region Team, which won the first, second and third prizes respectively in the women's regu event.

SAC Member U MOUNG HAR awarded the Men's Championship Trophy to the Sagaing Region Team, SAC Member Jeng Phang Naw Taung awarded the Women's Championship Trophy to the Yangon Region Team and SAC Member Daw Aye Nu Sein awarded the over-all Championship Trophy to the Sagaing Region Team.

The 2020 Inter-State/Region Sepak Takraw Competitions are held from 5 to 15 July at the Gymnasium (C) of Wunna Theikdi Stadium. A total of 368 athletes from 15 male teams and 13 female teams participated in the men's double regu and men's regu events and the men's and women's mix-regu and double regu events. — MNA

Myanmar attends 32nd South East Asian Games Federation (SEAGF) Council Meeting in Cambodia

UNION Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan attended the 32nd South East Asian Games Federation (SEAGF) Council Meeting held in Cambodia between 11 and 13 July together with the director-general and other four members of the Department of Sports and Physical Education.

The Union minister and party joined the welcome party for representatives of 11 ASEAN member countries to the 32nd SEAGF Council Meeting hosted by Cambodian Prime Minister Mr Hun Sen at Sokha Hotel in Phnom Penh on the morning of 11 July.

At noon, they visited the stadium/sports ground for the 32nd SEA Games.

The Cambodian Deputy

Prime Minister and Defence Minister Chairman of the 32nd SEA Games Organizing Committee hosted dinner for the representatives of 11 ASEAN countries at Sokha hotel on the same evening.

On the morning of 12 July, the Union minister attended SEAGF Sports and Rule Committee Meeting, SEAGF Medical and Anti-Doping Committee Meeting, SEAGF Women in Sports Committee Meeting, SEAGF Media and Broadcasting Meeting and the director-general of the Department of Sports and Physical Education joined the SEAGF Executive Committee Meeting at noon.

On the morning of 13 July, Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Chairman of the 32nd SEA Games



The 32nd South East Asian Games Federation Council Meeting is underway in Cambodia from 11 to 13 July 2022.

Organizing Committee made a speech at the 32nd SEAGF Council Meeting and they confirmed the sports for the 32nd SEA Games,

drafted and approved rules and regulations for competition and selected the host countries for coming SEA Games.

In the evening, the Union minister and party left Cambodia and arrived in Yangon on 14 July morning. — MNA

14 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 15 July, total figure rises to 613,798

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **613,798** after **14** new cases were reported on 15 July 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **592,712** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll still stands at **19,434** without more casualties.—MNA

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Most crops fetch high prices

MYANMAR is an agricultural country with 17 million acres of monsoon and summer rice, about 10 million acres of beans and pulses, over seven million acres of edible oil crops and 1.49 million acres of corn.

During this year, fuel and agrochemicals such as peanut oil and insecticide prices are high and crops fetch proper prices bringing benefits to the farmers.

In the local agriculture sector, the reference price of 2021 monsoon raw rice was K520,000 per 100 baskets and the rice was sold higher than that amount in monsoon and summer rice seasons. Around September 2021 in the monsoon rice season, the monsoon paddy price was set at about K600,000 per 100 baskets and about K700,000 per 100 baskets of summer paddy in March 2022 in the new summer paddy season.

In the 2022 early monsoon, the unfinished rice price was about K30,000 per bag while the broken rice was K30,000 per bag. The prices were higher compared to the same period of last year. When the government



A farmer broadcasts fertilizers on the monsoon rice farm.

makes effort to promote the rice export volume, the foreign rice prices and exchange rates are high and so the farmers will face high prices in the monsoon paddy season of 2022.

The Pawsan rice price was about K1 million per 100 baskets in 2021. The finished Shwebo Pawsan was about K55,000 per bag in the countryside and the rice was priced at over K1.5 million.

The prices of black gram and pigeon pea were about K1.5 million per tonne recently and they

were higher than the prices of 2020/2021. It is about K70,000 per tonne of sesame and K4,000 per tonne of peanut.

It is about K1,300 per viss of onion, K2,500 per viss of garlic and K1,500 per viss of potato and these commodity prices are also higher than the prices in 2021/2021.

About 70 per cent of over 50 million of the country's population rely on the agriculture sector so farmers can reap good profits. —TWA/GNLM

Govt allocates US\$16 mln for ART medicines, medical supplies in current FY

THE government allocated \$16 million to buy ART medicines and medical supplies in the 2022-23 Financial Year (FY), according to the Ministry of Health.

Currently, the country is making efforts to emerge as an HIV-free society by 2023 as per the five priorities in the National Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS (2021-2025) and 330 townships were accessible to health services in 2021. The proper medical services were extended to 330 townships nationwide in 2021. The HIV infection rate in pregnant women declined from 0.84 per cent in 2011 to 0.57 per cent in 2018, according to the ministry.

There were about 237,000 HIV patients in Myanmar in 2018 with an HIV prevalence rate of

0.57 per cent. The infection rate reached its highest with 29,000 new cases in 2000 and it dropped to 10,000 more in 2018.

Over 70 per cent of new infection cases were found in people who inject drugs, female sex workers and men who have sex with men.

The new HIV infection is mostly high in Kachin, Shan (North) states, Sagaing and Yangon regions, the data said.

In 2015, of over 200,000 HIV patients, only 85,000 were treated with ART medicines and it rose to over 175,000 patients in September 2019.

It is reported that the Ministry of Health and the Global Fund provide the needed funds to combat HIV in Myanmar. — TWA/GNLM



ART (Antiretroviral Therapy) medicines.

Taungbyone festival to be held briefly in traditional ways

TAUNGBYONE festival will be held briefly in traditional ways in Madaya of Mandalay Region, according to the Taungbyone Board of Trustees.

The festival was unable to be held for two years in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 outbreak. This year, it will be held

from 28 July to 11 August. Permission has been granted to hold the festival at the palace of the two Taungbyone spiritual kings, and not for the other 50 palaces.

The traditions of the festival will be carried out and the people will be allowed to perform their rituals at the festival. Currently,

a total of 13 Myanmar nationals are affected by the Omicron COVID-19 variants namely BA4 and BA5, the statement of the Ministry of Health said on 13 July. The Ministry has alerted the people to wear face masks, abide by the prevention rules and be vaccinated. — TWA/GNLM

Air Asia to resume Mandalay-Bangkok flight on 16 July



AIR Asia is planning to resume the Mandalay-Bangkok flight on 16 July, after two years of suspension due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

The airline suspended its international flights in March 2020 and has recommenced the weekly Yangon-Bangkok flights on 1 June and the weekly Yangon-Kuala Lumpur flights on 3 June. It has announced the resumption of Mandalay-Bangkok

flights on 16 July, which will fly every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

Yangon-Bangkok flights run weekly on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday while Yangon-Kuala Lumpur flights fly weekly on Monday and Friday. International flights stopped due to the COVID-19 crisis and the resurrections have started since last year April. — TWA/GNLM

AirAsia has three daily flights connecting Bangkok with Yangon, and one daily service between the Thailand capital and Mandalay. **PHOTO: AFP**

LOCAL BUSINESS

Wheat crop sees robust trade fetching high prices in Mandalay

MANDALAY market has seen brisk sales of wheat crop in recent days. The wheat crop also fetch a high price, beans and pulses traders said.

It is mainly supplied by Monywa, Sagaing, Budalin, Myinmu and Myaung areas. The wheat prices stood at only K95,000 per three-basket bag in March, whereas the prevailing prices increased to K130,000-K137,000 per bag, said U Soe Win Myint from the Mandalay Soe Win Myint depot.

“Mandalay market is bustling with trading activities of wheat crops at a high price. Wheat is highly consumed in the external markets. It is the second highest demanded crop in Myanmar after the staple food

rice. The high price allows the wheat growers to make profits this year. Earlier, wheat was commonly imported. To minimize the outflow of foreign currency, I like to suggest the growers add more acres and improve production. The domestic consumption of wheat is also growing year over year. The wheat has become one of the essential crops in Myanmar,” he elaborated.

The wheat can be cultivated once a year. It cannot be grown anywhere in Myanmar, especially in Sagaing Region. It is commonly found in southern and northern Shan State, Chin State and Kayah State. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/GNLM



The wheat can be cultivated once a year. It cannot be grown anywhere in Myanmar, especially in Sagaing Region. It is commonly found in southern and northern Shan State, Chin State and Kayah State.

Export income required to be declared for obligatory ED

THE Customs Department under the Ministry of Planning and Finance notified the head of the region and state department, head of the township department and officials of all the one-stop service centres on 13 July that export declaration (ED) is accessible only if exporters can present export income declaration.

For exports of maize, beans, pulses and oil crops, ED processing can be made in the presence of a Bank Certificate issued by the authorized banks, export licence and Telegraphic Transfer system.

This action came into force on 14 July. The daily report is submitted to the department.

Starting from 1 July, the Ministry of Commerce has been issuing the export licences of maize, various beans and

pulses for normal international seaborne trade settlement in US dollars. The Department of Trade is directed to grant an export licence with the presence of the recommendations from the Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association. The ministry instructed the association on 13 July to scrutinize each applicant for the exports via sea trade and grant export recommendations.

The association has notified the member companies of export recommendation requirements to seek an export licence for exports of corn, various beans and pulses, according to a notification released on 14 July.

Those interested companies can apply for recommendations at Shwe Zabu River View Complex: 23G-1, No.3B, Tower (A &

C), Ground Floor, Strand Road, Ahlon Township, Yangon, filing the necessary documents. They must submit a soft copy in Excel File format according to MPBMSMA-Export Licence Endorsement to the association through ed@mpbmsma.org in advance. The association will screen the applicants after assessing the request letters and documents in line with the decisions of the executive meeting of the association (3/2022) held on 11 July and export recommendations will be forwarded to the Trade Department.

Exporters can seek a licence through Myanmar Trade Net 2.0 <https://myanmartrade.net.com> by completing the relevant form.

Export licence processing might be delayed due to the incomplete form and scrutinizing procedures to find out limited export companies in line with the rules of the Central Bank of Myanmar and the ministries concerned. The association requested the companies to avoid cargo loading before they receive export licences.

The Foreign Exchange Supervisory Committee released the directive on 30 June that border transaction settlement for the exports of agricultural products including corn, rice, bean and oil crops are to be made in dollars instead of Yuan-Kyat/Baht-Kyat. — NN/GNLM



Domestic pure gold price remains high despite falling international gold prices

A surge in production cost on mounting inflation drove the pure gold prices up to K2,050,000 per tical (0.578 ounce, or 0.016 kilogramme) in the domestic market although the global gold prices are falling, said U Myo Myint, chair of the Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA).

The oil prices escalated from K300,000 to K700,000 per barrel.

“The production cost tremendously surged. Earlier, the pure gold fetched only K1.3 million per tical in Tanai Township, while the price reached K1.8 million in the Yangon market. At present, the prices soar to K1.9 million in Tanai Township so the market price in the Yangon market is estimated at K2 million. The price cannot go lower than that. The raw gold supplier cannot lower the price. Moreover, costs for fuel spiked from K300,000 to K700,000 per barrel. The production cost significantly rocketed,” U Myo Myint elaborated.

There is a short supply of raw gold from gold mines in the rainy season. Yet, the damaged gold items are refined into pure gold bars. As a result of this, there is no need to be concerned about the shortage of raw gold,

he continued. The global gold price was below US\$1,800 per ounce starting from early July and slid to \$1,711 per ounce on 15 July.

Despite a slump in international gold prices, domestic gold peaked at K2,045,000 per tical at present.

Only when production costs, as well as global gold prices drop, can cause the price rollback, U Myo Myint shared his opinion.

In a bid to end the black market and stabilize the volatile prices, YGEA urged the members and gold traders to make gold transactions with immediate payment. Cross-border trade is not allowed without reporting to the association, according to its statement released on 17 May. The statement includes seeking a trade licence for gold shops, a licence for gold bar transactions and taking actions against those unauthorized dealers involved in online trade platforms. After that, gold shops engaged in gold bar transactions have to make an inventory list of gold bars and gold trading reports. Those individuals and gold shops will face legal actions under the existing law if they fail to follow that statement, according to YGEA. — NN/GNLM

OPINION

Eliminate illegal trade for booming State economy

OFFICIALS concerned and businesspersons need to seek the best solution for minimizing the illegal trade, in addition, to arresting those related to trafficking and storage of illegal commodities as illegal trade is based on the purpose of evading the levying tax on the exported and imported commodities.

Moreover, deterrent action will be taken against those who commit unofficial trading of prohibited and restricted goods. If so, officially imported goods will get good prices whereas businesspersons from the official trading arena will have the chance to enjoy the fruits of the official trading process.

Moreover, unofficial trade is a hindrance to booming the State economy as well as official trade measures. With the aim of developing the market economic system and promoting the trade sector, the government has eased many restrictions on ways to operate the export and import processes for local businesspersons.

The official trade process is based on shipping and aviation services in order to penetrate the international market. Moreover, border trade camps and border trade zones have been established along the border regions between Myanmar and its neighbouring India, China, Thailand and Bangladesh.

So far, four border trade camps are being operated in areas sharing a border with China, eight with Thailand and two each with India and Bangladesh. These camps are handling export and import trading of businesspersons with licences. In addition, the authorities allow merchants to do manageable trading.

Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committees at different levels decided to fight against illegal trade in cooperation with the

relevant departments such as the Customs Department and other departments. Moreover, the authorities and departmental officials raid the illegal trade sites and storage areas to be able to take severe action against the lawbreakers in regions and states.

The illegal goods without any official documents may be cheaper than the official goods. But, the formers bring worse impacts on health hazards to consumers. As such, consumers need to choose the best and safe goods on their choice for their consumption, rather than illegal goods without prioritizing the cheaper prices. Only when the authorities eliminate the illegal trade process will the country have a greater volume of official trade, earning income for the State.

As such, relevant organizations need to cooperate with government departments, businesspersons and dutiful locals in taking action against the illegal trade of greedy businesspersons on a wider scale for serving the interests of the State and the people forever.

■

Public Relations activities created the Self-Defence Forces supported by the people:

The fundamentals are to share difficulties with the people

By Suzuka YOSHIDA

On 8 July, former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe died from a deadly bullet. During his tenure and after his resignation, the key issue he was calling for was a constitutional amendment, especially the designation of the Self-Defence Forces as the “military” in the Japanese Constitution. However, even the powerful Abe administration did not achieve it. The Kishida administration has taken over this challenge and is trying to move forward.

The central debate on constitutional amendment is to make a clear description of the Self-Defence Forces in the constitution



The above photo was provided by the Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force.

You would be sceptical if you heard that the country with the third largest GDP in the world does not have an army. But this is true. As stated in Article 9 of the Constitution as followed,

“Aspiring sincerely to an international peace based on justice and order; the Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes. In order to accomplish the aim of the preceding paragraph, land, sea,

and air forces, as well as another war potential, will never be maintained. The right of belligerency of the state will not be recognized.”

Japan does not have an army. Instead, she has the Self-Defence Forces that have military functions on land, sea, and air. The constitution and reality do not match.

The cause of this contradiction lies in the process of formulation. Douglas MacArthur, the head of the US Army’s General Headquarters, who occupied Japan after World War II, ordered the Japanese who were drafting the constitution the three principles of the Constitution, “Maintaining the Emperor System, Abandoning the War, and

force with some military capabilities. Following that, the Japanese government created a police reserve, which eventually became a self-defence force with land, sea, and air forces. The equipment is now one of the most effective in the world, and the proficiency of the SDF personnel is rated as one of the best in the world.

However, due to such circumstances, there are some people who do not think that the current constitution is a constitution originally created by Japan. On the contrary, many argue that the forever renounce war is in great agreement and that the Self-De-

Prime Minister Abe’s intention to amend the Constitution could not be achieved even by the powerful leader Abe.

The public needs the Self-Defence Forces

Seventy years passed after the Japan Self Defence Force (JSDF) was established, and the JSDF is currently functioning as an army. There is also the Chief of Staff, Joint Staff, who has the land, sea, and air forces and brings them together. The 2015 Japanese military legislation was put in place, allowing overseas activities and joint operations with the US military. Thorough civilian control, which is the cornerstone of military law, has also been completed. Although not mentioned in the Constitution, the public needs the JSDF indeed. Why is the JSDF, which is not mentioned in the Constitution, believed in the trust of the people? There was a long-standing effort by the JSDF.

There are two factors that have shortened the distance between the public and the JSDF.

One is to recognize that it is practically necessary to carry out devoted disaster relief activities. As I wrote earlier in this column, Japan has been hit by many catastrophes and suffered large-scale disasters plenty of times.

Second, the JSDF widely continues through active public relations activities to make a tie with the public.

The land, sea, and air of the Self-Defence Forces each have the opportunity to have contact with the people and build relationships with the public, that is public relations. For example, the Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force carries an event in which the public is carried on a battleship and runs in the sea for about 30 minutes. The public doesn’t care how many tons a battleship is, but they can actually hear realistic gunshots, be exposed to the splashes of a

battleship, and hear the sound of an aeroplane coincidentally flying with ships. As a member of the operation where many infections are steered together with the progress, the public will experience the actual battle in a simulated manner. In the meantime, an announce member tells the captain’s name with a microphone and explains the operation. The people who board a warship can experience the excitement and unity of a team on the same boat for a while.

The public is aware of where the crisis around Japan will occur. This is because the media frequently provides security-related information. The Japan Self-Defence Forces are also keen to accept TV comedian visits as well. In the program where TV comedians visit and report camps of the JSDF, they receive explanations and experience training from JSDF officials who do not normally get in touch with the public and give their impressions and explanations to viewers. TV stations also are keen to broadcast because they can get a high audience rating.

Generally, the military has a mission to respond to invasions from foreign countries, so there is almost no contact with the people on a daily basis. Unlike the police, they do not work directly with the people. Is the JSDF needed while they don’t work visibly? What kind of work do you do? However, by conducting public relations as mentioned above, the people are getting to know and understand the work of the JSDF and furthermore many people are feeling a sense of intimacy. No one blames the JSDF that they are unnecessary.

Debate continues how to amend the Constitution

Former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has given lessons learned. Firstly, the constitutional amendment should not be decided by a single leader (Prime Minister) and the Cabinet alone. Even if a

strong leader leads discussions, various actors such as members of the ruling party, the opposition party, the people, and experts must discuss each other as well and feel that most of the people agree. Secondly, time would be needed to build public opinion. The media will explain both the opposition and the pros, various groups in various fields will send opinions to the government, parliamentarians will exhaust the discussions, and the opinions will be gradually consolidated into one opinion. Neither the people nor the Diet has begun discussions yet.

According to a recent poll, 90 per cent of Japanese people think that they need the JSDF and that they like it. Currently, there are four parties in favour of the constitutional amendment, and the total number of seats in the four parties reached more than two-thirds of the parliamentarians required to propose the constitutional amendment in the House of Councilors election on 10 July. The Kishida Cabinet will continue to discuss which clauses to revise and how. On the other hand, the Komeito political party, one of the ruling coalition parties, argues that JSDFs are already functioning well and there is no need to amend the constitution. Future discussions will not be easy.

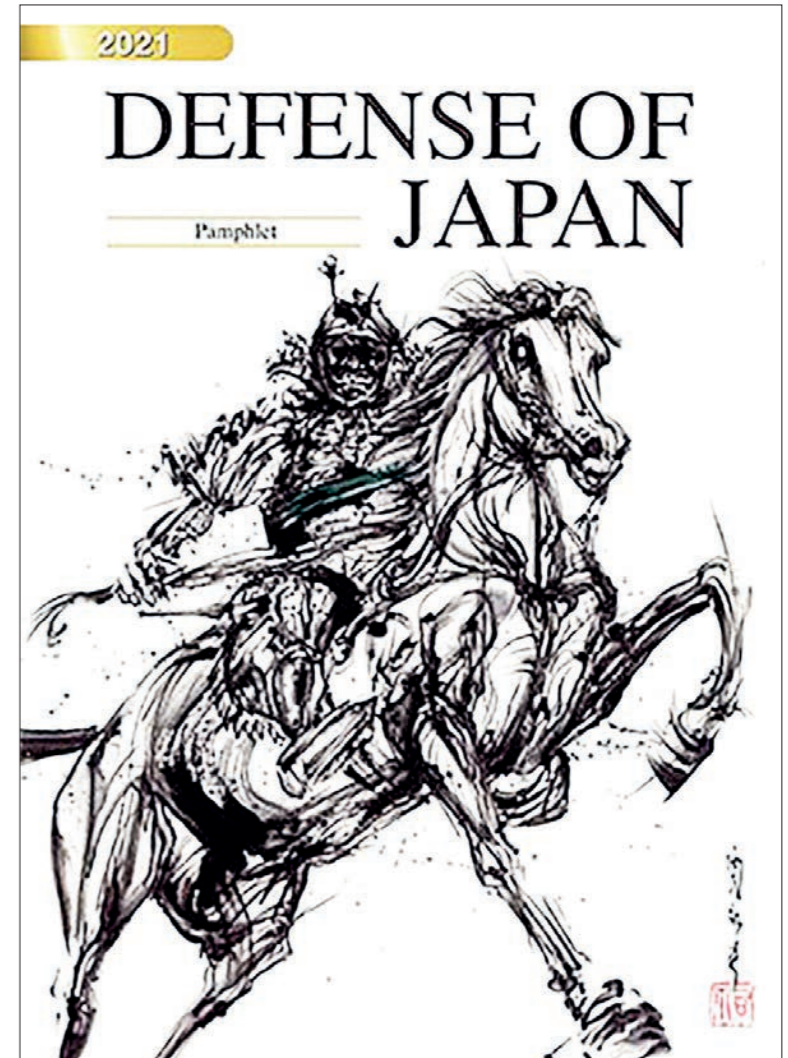
If the JSDF was specified as an “army” in the Constitution, Japan will easily be able to transform into a powerful country with full-scale offensive power. The war between Russia and Ukraine will boost this movement. Since Japan is the eastern neighbour of Russia, the public thinks that tomorrow’s crisis will cause in Japan.

SOURCE:

https://www.mod.go.jp/en/pub/w_paper/wp2021/DOJ2021_EN_Full.pdf

15 October 2015, Fleet Review (YouTube)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UBwoSFGJ020&t=11s>



“DEFENCE OF JAPAN 2021” Full Version issued by Ministry of Defence. All related information is disclosed and the paper is issued every year.



Sharing amusement is very important and effective to promote people understanding of the JSDF. For example, it is popular to compare the taste of curry, which is the dish that the JSDF makes every Friday. Warships made a habit of eating curry on Friday because the crew of warships forget the day of the week when they are on the warship. Now, the crew of warships has created a retort curry for each ship and has been devised enough to hold a contest. The public and crew of warships jointly enjoy the same food as amusement.

Photo: Olive curry made with the minesweeper warship “Etajima”. The recipe is disclosed on Home Page as well.

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, petroleum, consumer goods, auto parts, unregistered motorboats and vehicles seized

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

Under the instructions of the Anti-Illicit Trade Task Force, a combined inspection team conducted the inspections.

A total of 520 gallons of illegal petroleum worth K882,232 in Minbu township were captured on 11 July and the action was taken under the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law.

In addition, two unregistered motorboats worth K5.7 million which were stopped on Ayeyawady bank in Minhla township were captured on 14 July, and the action was taken under the Inland Water Transport Vessels Law.

Similarly, a combined on-duty team under the supervision of the Customs Department at the container terminal



Officials check confiscated illegal timbers.

of Myanmar Industrial Port made inspections on 13 July.

Officials confiscated K2,264,400 worth of household appliances that exceeded the Import Declaration (ID), and the action was taken under the

Customs Procedures.

Afterwards, a combined departmental inspection team conducted a casual examination on two Chinese licenced trucks at the Myaeni Bus Stop of Muse township under the

Shan State Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force on 14 July.

Officials captured K62,468,070 worth of electronics, consumer goods and car parts with paid custom duty from two Chinese licenced Dongfeng

trucks (approximately K41 million). The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Similarly, a total of 0.9298 tonne of illegal timbers worth K236,400 was seized in Pathein township, and the action was taken under the Forest Law. An unregistered Honda Fit car worth K3.9 million was seized at Township Entrance Gate Combined Checkpoint of Maubin township, and the action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

In addition, on 15 July, a total of 13.2976 tonnes of illegal teak, hardwood and other timbers worth K4,785,038 were confiscated in forest reserves of the Bago district. The action was taken under the Forest Law. Therefore, 17 seizures (approximately K121,236,140) were made on 11, 13, 14 and 15 July, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

Restricted chemicals, related accessories confiscated in Shan State (North)

THE combination team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force stopped and searched a Toyota HiAce vehicle driven by Tin Aung Hla accompanied by Hla Ngwe in Pansone village-tract of Hsenwi Township in northern Shan State at 9:30 am on 11 July.

They seized 2.5 tonnes of Sodium Acetate, which is an illegally restricted chemical.

The team further seized a Toyota Wish vehicle driven by the illegally restricted chemical carrier Arr Phyin and Arr San in the traffic light of ward 12 of Lashio Township at 12:00 noon.

According to sequence reports, the combined team searched a brick factory's garage and found Han Min Aung (aka) Htet Gyi and Ma Khine

Su Nwe (aka) Khine Su with 1.25 tonnes of sodium acetate, a restricted chemical and other chemicals such as 2.4 tonnes of potassium sulphate, 6.75 tonnes of sodium carbonate, 380 kilogrammes of sodium chloride, chemical odours and 18 chemical masks and 105 air filters in Kaunghmuton ward of Muse township at 2 pm.

At 5 pm, the team also searched the garage at Swansaw 4th street, Swansaw quarter in Muse and seized 1.55 tonnes of the restricted chemical sodium acetate from the garage's guard Thura Kyaw.

A total of 5.3 tonnes of the restricted chemical sodium acetate and other chemicals such as 2.4 tonnes of potassium sulphate, 6.75 tonnes of sodium carbonate, 380 kilos of sodium chloride, chemical odours, 18 chemical masks and 105 air filters were impounded. They are prosecuted under the law while investigating, the Myanmar Police Force stated. — MNA



Four arrestees are seen along with seized chemicals and vehicles.

Numerous drugs confiscated in Kengtung, Shan State (East)



An arrestee is seen together with seized drugs and a lorry.

ONE hundred and fifty-nine kilogrammes of Ice (Methamphetamine) worth over 1.37 billion and seven kilogrammes of 20 heroin blocks were seized by the Myanmar Police Force in Kengtung Township, Shan State (East).

A combined task force including members of the Anti-Drug Police Force examined a Dong Feng six-wheeler truck driven by Than Naing heading from Kengtung to Tachilek, according to information on 11 July afternoon.

A search of the truck

turned up 159 kilogrammes of Ice (Methamphetamine) worth over K1.37 billion and seven kilogrammes of 20 heroin blocks.

According to the interrogation, the suspect was arrested for transporting drugs from the Mongpyin to Tachilek Township, Shan State (East).

Than Naing was prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law and the MPF is investigating further information, it is learnt. — MNA

PANDEMIC WORLD

Japan's total COVID cases top 10 mln as cases surge

JAPAN'S cumulative COVID-19 infections topped 10 million cases Thursday, with the country logging over 90,000 new cases for the second straight day, but the government has indicated there are no plans to impose restrictions at this point. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, at a press conference, stressed the need for "maximum caution" while keeping the economy going at the same time, adding that the government will "use our strengthened (COVID-19) response capability" to stem the

seventh wave of coronavirus infections. In Tokyo, where 16,662 new cases were confirmed, the metropolitan government raised the capital's COVID-19 alert to the highest of four levels.

Amid the rebound driven by the highly transmissible BA.5 Omicron subvariant, a total of 97,788 new COVID-19 cases were reported across the country, approaching the peak of some 104,000 daily cases that the country saw in February.

"Coronavirus infections are

spreading nationwide, and the number is increasing in all age brackets, especially among young people," Kishida said.

It has taken only four months for the cumulative nationwide total to double, according to a Kyodo News tally, highlighting the accelerating pace of infections. After the first COVID-19 case was confirmed in Japan in January 2020, it took around 19 months to hit 1 million and another six months to reach 5 million.—Kyodo



People wearing face masks walk in the rain in Tokyo's Shibuya district on 14 July 2022, as the Tokyo metropolitan government reports 16,662 COVID-19 cases the same day, doubling from a week earlier, amid a nationwide surge driven by the highly transmissible BA.5 subvariant of the Omicron variant. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Netherlands latest country to detect Covid BA.2.75 subvariant



Protesters gathered in Amsterdam to demonstrate against the lockdown imposed on 21 January 2021. **PHOTO: ROBIN VAN LONKHUIJSEN/ANP/AFP/FILE**

THE Netherlands announced on Wednesday it has become the latest country to detect a case of the Covid Omicron subvariant BA.2.75, as experts expressed concern about the strain's rapid spread.

The subvariant, nicknamed "Centaurus", first emerged in India in May and has since spread to around 10 countries, including

the United States, Britain, Germany and Australia.

It "has also now been identified in the Netherlands," the Dutch National Institute of Public Health said in a statement.

"Little is known about BA.2.75," the institute said, but it "appears to more easily bypass the defences built up against SARS-CoV-2 through small, spe-

cific changes". The World Health Organization's chief scientist Soumya Swaminathan said last week that the UN agency was closely tracking the strain, but there were "limited sequences to analyze".

"This sub-variant seems to have a few mutations on the receptor binding domain of the spike protein... so we have to watch that," she said in a tweet-ed video. She added that it was "too early to know" how well the strain can evade immunity or how severe it was. Antoine Flahault, director of the Institute of Global Health at the University of Geneva, told AFP that BA.2.75's spread in India indicated it could be more transmissible than the BA.5 Omicron subvariant, which has been driving waves in Europe and the US. "It seems to be becoming the dominant strain in India — the question is will it become the dominant strain all over the world?"—AFP

India logs 20,038 new COVID cases in last 24 hours

INDIA recorded 20,038 new covid-19 cases in the last 24 hours, taking the total tally of active caseload to 1,39,073 as per the Health Ministry data on Friday.

The total case since the pandemic in the country stood at 4,36,89,989. As many as 47 fresh fatalities were also recorded dur-

ing the same period, taking the total death count in the country, as a result of coronavirus, to 5,25,604.

Meanwhile, 16,994 recoveries were reported in the last 24 hours, increasing the total recoveries to 4,30,45,350 whereas the national COVID-19 recovery rate stands at 98.48 per cent. On the vaccination

front, the government has been continuously speeding up the vaccination drive across the country.

According to the bulletin issued by the Ministry on Friday, 86.86 Crore tests for Covid-19 have been done so far. In the last 24 hours, a total of 4,50,820 tests have been conducted.—ANI

Bank of America fined \$225 mn for 'botching' US Covid-19 aid payments

TWO US agencies fined Bank of America a total of \$225 million on charges it wrongfully froze unemployment and other public benefit programmes at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau imposed a \$100 million penalty on Bank of America (BofA) for "botching" the disbursement of state unemployment programmes during Covid-19, the agency said. "Bank of America (BofA) automatically and unlawfully froze people's accounts with a faulty fraud detection programme, and then gave them little recourse when there was, in fact, no fraud," the agency said in a news release.

The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency fined BofA \$125 million for "violations of law and unsafe or unsound practices" in the bank's ad-

ministration of public benefits programmes.

The agencies also required the US bank to provide payments to those wrongfully deprived payments.

The consumer agency said BofA during the pandemic altered its practices for investigating debt card fraud, replacing a "reasonable" investigation with a fraud filter system that automatically triggered an account freeze. The bank further "made it very difficult" for people to unfreeze the accounts, the agency said. "The bank failed these prepaid cardholders by denying them access to their mandated unemployment funds during the height of the pandemic, and leaving these vulnerable consumers without an effective way to remedy the situation," said OCC Acting Comptroller Michael Hsu.—AFP



A woman uses a Bank of America ATM machine in Alhambra, California on 4 May 2022. **PHOTO: FREDERIC J. BROWN / AFP**

ECONOMY WORLD

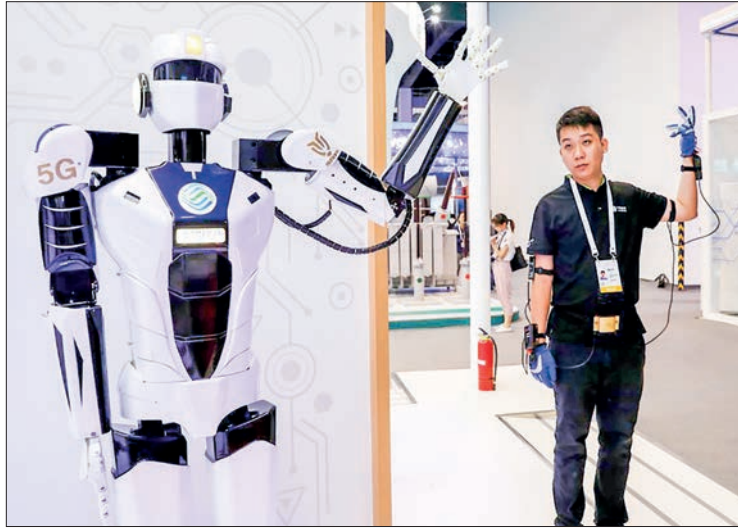
China has made significant progress in meeting SDGs: minister

CHINA has made significant progress in meeting Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in several areas, said Huang Runqiu, the Chinese minister of ecology and environment, on Wednesday.

Huang made the remarks at the opening of the ministerial segment of the High-level Political Forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council.

As the world's largest developing country and an active practitioner in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, China has made significant progress in meeting SDGs, including eliminating poverty, protecting the marine environment, effectively utilizing energy, tackling climate change, and conserving land ecosystems, he said.

"We keep the people-oriented principle and firmly promote poverty elimination. With years of continued endeavour, China has achieved a historic success by eradicating absolute poverty: all 98.99 million rural residents



Goal 9 of the SDGs requires us to 'Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation'. A staff member (R) demonstrates 5G-based remote control of a robot during the 2019 World Artificial Intelligence Conference (WAIC) in East China's Shanghai, on 29 Aug 2019. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

living under the current poverty line had been lifted out of poverty, which marks that China has achieved SDG1 (no poverty) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 10 years ahead of schedule," he said.

China upholds harmony between man and nature, and firmly promotes green and low-carbon development, he noted.

China announced its plan to

peak carbon dioxide emissions before 2030 and to achieve carbon neutrality before 2060. China has incorporated the two goals into its overall layout of economic and social development and has built the world's largest clean-energy system, he said.

China sticks to multilateralism and firmly promotes global sustainable development, he said. —Xinhua

Hungary unveils plan to tackle energy crisis



A worker inspects equipment at a receiving station on the Druzhba pipeline that carries petroleum from Russia to Hungary at an MOL Company refinery in Szazhalombatta, 30 kilometres south of Budapest. **PHOTO: AFP**

HUNGARY declared a "state of danger" on Wednesday due to the energy crisis ignited by Russia's invasion of Ukraine and announced a seven-point plan to tackle it.

Gergely Gulyas, chief of staff

of Prime Minister Viktor Orban's office, listed the measures after a cabinet meeting.

"The situation is very difficult everywhere in Europe because of the war and the sanctions taken in response," he told

journalists.

The new plan came in response to the soaring energy crisis caused by the Ukraine conflict and would come into effect in August, he said.

The government will step up domestic natural gas production from 1.5 to 2.0 billion cubic metres, while seeking other sources of gas.

It will impose an export ban on energy sources such as firewood and boost domestic production of lignite coal.

It will reopen one power station at Matra and extend the operation of the Paks nuclear power plant, near Budapest. And people who consume more than average amounts of energy will have to pay for it at the market price rather than the heavily subsidised state rates. That could affect up to a quarter of the population, said Gulyas.—AFP

Cambodia expects 1 mln foreign tourists in 2022

CAMBODIA is expected to attract one million international tourists in 2022, much higher than 200,000 in 2021, Tourism Minister Thong Khon said here on Thursday.

The Southeast Asian nation received 510,000 foreign visitors in the first half of this year, up 394 per cent compared to the same period last year, he said, adding that Vietnam and Thailand were the largest sources of tourists to the kingdom.

"Based on this figure, we hope to attract around one million foreign tourists in 2022 and up to two million in 2023," Khon said during the closing ceremony of the ministry's three-day meeting. The minister said tourism, one of four pillars supporting the country's economy, is forecast to reach its pre-COVID-19 level in 2026 or 2027.

In the pre-pandemic era,

the kingdom welcomed 6.6 million international tourists in 2019, generating 4.92 billion US dollars in revenue, according to the Tourism Ministry.

Speaking at the closing ceremony, Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen said Cambodia was among the first countries in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) that had reopened borders and eased travel restrictions for international travellers.

"We have reopened the country and we don't think we will close it again because our vaccination rate is high and herd immunity is well achieved," he said. "We will continue to fight COVID-19 with confidence."

Currently, there are 24 airlines operating in Cambodia, with 2,214 flights recorded in the first half of this year, up 141 per cent year-on-year.—Xinhua



In this related photo passengers are exiting from the airport. Cambodia is expected to receive about one million international tourists in 2022 and approximately two million in 2023. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Progress in Russia, Ukraine grain talks

RUSSIA and Ukraine have made enough progress on resolving their dispute over blocked grain exports to hold new talks in Türkiye next week, the Turkish defence minister said Wednesday.

"It was agreed that the Russian and Ukrainian delegations should meet again in Türkiye next week," Hulusi Akar said in a statement after the first talks in Istanbul between Russian and Ukrainian delegations since March.

Akar said the two countries' defence delegations agreed on "joint controls" at ports and on ways to "ensure the safety of the transfer routes" across the Black Sea.

He signalled that a final agreement on releasing an estimated 20 to 25 million tonnes of grain now blocked in Ukrainian ports could be announced next week.

"At this meeting, which we will hold next week, all the details will be reviewed once again and the work we have done will be signed," Akar said.—AFP

Saudi opens airspace to 'all carriers' in gesture to Israel

SAUDI Arabia announced Friday it was lifting restrictions on "all carriers" using its airspace, an apparent gesture of openness towards Israel hours before US President Joe Biden's arrival.

The US leader wel-

comed the "historic" decision, the latest conciliatory move by Riyadh concerning the Jewish state, which it has refused to recognize despite intensive efforts by the Israelis to establish ties with Arab countries.

The Saudi civil aviation authority "announces the decision to open the Kingdom's airspace for all air carriers that meet the requirements of the authority for overflying", it said in a statement.

The decision was made "to complement the Kingdom's efforts aimed at consolidating the Kingdom's position as a global hub connecting three continents".

Biden said in a statement later Friday that Riyadh's move came "thanks to months of steady diplomacy between my administration and Saudi Arabia", where he is set to travel in the afternoon as part of a Middle East tour.—AFP



A Qatar Airways passenger jet is seen at Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport in this file picture taken on 11 January 2021. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Panasonic to build \$4bln electric vehicle battery plant in US

JAPANESE electronics giant Panasonic said Thursday it will spend \$4 billion to build a new battery factory in the United States for electric vehicles.

The lithium-ion battery plant in Kansas could create up to 4,000 new jobs, Panasonic said, as the Tesla supplier drives to expand its presence.

"With the increased electrification of the automotive market, expanding battery production in the US is critical to help meet demand," Kazuo Tadano, president and CEO of Panasonic Energy, said in a statement.

The factory will be Panasonic's second electric car battery operation in the United States, joining



Panasonic aims to triple its battery manufacturing capacity by 2028. PHOTO: PANASONIC/AFP

its facility in Nevada.

The announcement comes with Tesla struggling to boost production, after unveiling two new factories in Germany and the US state of Texas earlier this year.

Panasonic's decision

was welcomed by Kansas Governor Laura Kelly as "transformative" for the local economy. The new factory is expected to be located in De Soto, Kansas, though the move is subject to approval by Panasonic's board.—AFP

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRIC POWER
ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION ENTERPRISE

Date: 16th July, 2022

Invitation to Bid for implementation of Ground Mounted Solar Power Plant Projects on Independent Power Producer and Build – Operate - Own Basis

1. Electric Power Generation Enterprise (EPGE) seeks to invite tender for the purchasing of electricity at Designated Connection Points from the Ground Mounted Solar Power Plant Projects on Independent Power Producer (IPP) and Build Operate Own (BOO) basis.

2. The Concession period shall be twenty (20) years from Commercial Operation Date(COD).

3. The Tender Form can be purchased within office hour from the tender announced date at following office either;

(1) Procurement Department,
Electric Power Generation Enterprise, Building 27,
Nay Pyi Taw, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
(or)

(2) N0.39 Kanner Road, Ahlone Power Station,
Ahlone Township, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

4. The Tender Form fee is Myamar Kyat three hundred thousand (Kyat 300,000) only.

5. The bid submission date is **16th September, 2022 at (10:00) hr, Myanmar Standard Time.**

6. Bidders shall prepare the proposals in accordance with the Invitation for Bid and Request for Proposal (RFP). Bidder's Proposals must be submitted on time. Any late proposal shall be rejected.

7. The necessary information of this tender can be inquired within office hour via calling the phone numbers or sending mail to the Email;

Electric Power Generation Enterprise
Ministry of Electric Power
Building 27, Nay Pyi Taw
Ph+95 9256323643, +95 9448543062
epgesolartender23@gmail.com

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V HAI NAM 85 VOY.NO. (2204)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V HAI NAM 85 VOY.NO. (2204)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **15-7-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMIT-1** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S INFINITE PROSPERITY SHIPPING PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V RICH SEAWAY VOY.NO. (023W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V RICH SEAWAY VOY.NO. (023W/E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-7-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ZIM AUSTRALIA VOY.NO. (08S/N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ZIM AUSTRALIA VOY.NO. (08S/N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-7-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **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 GOLDEN SEA LINES PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V AAL GALVESTON VOY.NO. (22002)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AAL GALVESTON VOY.NO. (22002)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **18-7-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMT-3** 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

Ads Call 09251022355
09974424848

Italian president rejects PM Draghi's resignation



Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi speaks at a press conference in Rome, Italy, on 12 July 2022. **PHOTO: STR/XINHUA**

ITALIAN President Sergio Mattarella rejected a resignation offer of Prime Minister Mario Draghi, after meeting him late on Thursday night.

Draghi decided to formally resign after the second largest force in his coalition — the Five Star Movement (M5S) — boycotted a confidence vote on the government's relief bill to combat soaring prices in the Senate earlier in the day.

In an official statement after their meeting at the Quirinale Palace, Mattarella's office said that "the president has not ac-

cepted the resignation".

Mattarella has invited Draghi "to appear before Parliament for communications, in order to have an assessment of the situation ... in its proper forum", the statement specified.

Draghi is now expected to address the lower house and the Senate next Wednesday, according to local media.

The crisis broke out after weeks of tensions mounting within the broad coalition supporting Draghi's national unity government, which was formed in February 2021.

Draghi, former chief of the European Central Bank, has been enjoying a large political consensus up to the latest months, when infighting focused on what the cabinet's priorities in the short and mid-term should be.

After the M5S refused to take part in the confidence vote on Thursday, Draghi gathered the cabinet and formally announced to his ministers that he would resign, saying the majority that had supported the government from its creation does not exist anymore.—Xinhua

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Russia labels investigation website Bellingcat 'undesirable'

RUSSIAN prosecutors on Friday branded the investigations website Bellingcat as "undesirable", saying it posed a security "threat" to the country, Russian agencies reported.

The comments come as Russia orchestrates an unprecedented media and opposition crackdown since sending troops to Ukraine in February. Bellingcat, which has produced reports on Moscow's Ukraine offensive, had already been branded a "foreign agent" in Russia last year. The General Prosecutor's Office labelled it "undesirable" with another Latvia-based investigations website, The Insider, and a Czech institute, the Central and Eastern Europe Law Initiative (CEELI).—AFP

G20 finance chiefs meet as Indonesia warns of energy, food catastrophe

GROUP of 20 finance ministers and central bank chiefs met in Indonesia Friday for talks on the fallout from Russia's invasion of Ukraine, with the host warning them failure to tackle energy and food crises would be catastrophic. The two-day meeting on the resort island of Bali started under the shadow of a war that has roiled markets, spiked food prices and stoked breakneck inflation, a week after Moscow's top diplomat walked out of talks with the forum's foreign ministers.—AFP

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Putin approves tough legislation on 'foreign agents'

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin has signed into law a number of new bills, including legislation that broadens the definition of "foreign agents" and introduces prison terms for calls to act against national security. A bill on "foreign agents", which will come into force on 1 December, was published by the government on Thursday.

According to the new legislation, anyone "under foreign influence" or receiving support from abroad -- not just foreign money -- can now be declared a "foreign agent" in Russia.

In recent years the label, which is reminiscent of the "enemy of the people" of the Soviet era, has been used extensively against opponents, journalists and human rights activists accused of conducting foreign-fund-



Security personnel halt motorists as smoke rises from the central market of Sloviansk, north of Kramatorsk on 5 July 2022, following a suspected missile attack amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine. **PHOTO: MIGUEL MEDINA / AFP**

ed political activities.

Putin also signed off on a bill introducing prison terms of up to seven years for calls to act against national security.

Russian society is reeling from a historic crackdown on dissent which has intensified since Putin sent troops to Ukraine on February 24.—AFP

EU says Lithuania must allow rail transit of Russian goods to Kaliningrad

THE European Union on Wednesday said Lithuania had an obligation to allow the passage of sanctioned goods, with the exception of weapons, between Russia and its exclave of Kaliningrad.

While transit by road was not allowed, legal guidance released by the EU executive said

that "no such prohibition exists for rail transport" from Russia to its outpost of Kaliningrad and that it could not be subject to an outright ban.

Russia threatened reprisals against the Baltic nation after Vilnius imposed strict restrictions on goods travelling across its territory, mainly by rail, ar-

guing it was simply applying EU sanctions. Moscow demanded that Lithuania immediately lift the restrictions, and said it had brought its grievances to European authorities.

"We did not negotiate anything with Russia," said EU spokesman Eric Mamer after the guidance was released.—AFP



A Lithuanian border guard carries the luggage of Russian citizens who were taken off of the transit train from Chelabinsk to Kaliningrad en route from Chelabinsk to Kaliningrad. **PHOTO: AFP**

China's Xi Jinping makes unannounced visit to Xinjiang

CHINESE President Xi Jinping made a public visit to Xinjiang, state media reported Friday.

State news agency Xinhua said Xi hailed the strides made during an inspection tour of the far-western region -- his first since 2014.

He also reportedly praised the work of the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps (XPCC).

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, said as the Belt and Road cooperation advances, Xinjiang is no longer a remote corner but a core area and a hub.

Xi made the remarks Tuesday afternoon when he visited the Urumqi International Land Port Area, in the city of Urumqi, capital of northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

Xi said a lot of remarkable



Chinese President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, waves to people of various ethnic groups while visiting the community of Guyuanxiang in the Tianshan District in the city of Urumqi, capital of northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, July 13, 2022. PHOTO: XINHUA/LI XUEREN

progress has been made since the Belt and Road Initiative was proposed.

Xi told the staff at the land port area that their work is of

great significance.

Acknowledging the progress they have made, Xi encouraged them to work for even greater success.—Xinhua

ROLLING UPDATES

Air India bombing suspect shot dead in Canada: media

AN acquitted suspect in the 1985 Air India bombings that killed 331 people was shot dead Thursday in an apparent targeted shooting in westernmost Canada, local media reported.

Ripudaman Singh Malik, a one-time supporter of the Sikh separatist Khalistan movement who was in 2005 acquitted in the Air India mass murder plot for lack of evidence, was reportedly shot outside his clothing business in the area of Vancouver, British Columbia.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police would not confirm the victim's name, but said in a statement that a man was found "suffering from gunshot wounds" and had "succumbed to his injuries (at the) scene."—AFP

Budapest protesters block bridge in anti-govt rally

HUNDREDS of protesters blocked a downtown Budapest bridge on Thursday for the third day in a row in a rally against a tax change by Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban's government.

The protests are the first since Orban won re-election by a landslide in April.

The protesters oppose the scrapping of a popular tax bracket, approved by parliament on Tuesday, and say it will hurt hundreds of thousands of small-sized business owners.—AFP

Biden to meet Palestinian leaders ahead of Saudi visit



Palestinian security officers deploy near the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem in the occupied West Bank, on 14 July 2022, ahead of US President Joe Biden's arrival. PHOTO: AFP

US President Joe Biden will meet Palestinian leader Mahmud Abbas in the occupied West Bank on Friday, with talks expected to focus on economic measures but without striking any major diplomatic breakthrough.

Bethlehem marks the latest stop on Biden's Middle East tour, following meetings with

Israeli officials and ahead of a visit to Saudi Arabia.

With Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations moribund since 2014, a US official said the delegation would make "some significant announcements... such as enhancing Palestinian economic opportunities".

Biden would announce an "additional \$201 million" for the

UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA), which provides education, healthcare and other services to Palestinians, a senior administration official said on Friday.

"The president has restored funding for UNRWA, which the previous administration had cut entirely, and under President Biden the US is now UNRWA's largest donor," the senior official said.

The US delegation will also unveil plans to roll out infrastructure for 4G internet across the Gaza Strip and West Bank by the end of next year, fulfilling a longstanding aspiration among Palestinians as some of their Israeli neighbours already tap in to faster 5G networks.

Biden would also unveil a "significant funding package" for hospitals in Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem, which largely support the Palestinian population, the US official said earlier.—AFP

Sri Lankan president's resignation accepted

THE resignation of Sri Lanka's president has been accepted, the crisis-hit country's parliamentary speaker announced Friday, after he fled the country earlier this week, prompting relief among protesters camped outside his former offices.

The formal declaration makes Gotabaya Rajapaksa — once known as "The Terminator" for his ruthless crushing of the Tamil rebellion — the first Sri Lankan head of state to resign since it adopted an executive presidency in 1978.

He emailed in his notice

from Singapore after flying to the city-state from the Maldives, where he initially escaped after demonstrators overran his palace at the weekend.

"The president has officially resigned from his position," speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana told reporters.

Outside the presidential secretariat, at the makeshift headquarters of a months-long protest movement against Rajapaksa, Catholic priest Jeevantha Peiris told AFP: "This is a historical moment for all Sri Lankans.—AFP



President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has fled Sri Lanka on a military jet, amid mass protests over the island's economic crisis. PHOTO: AFP

Italian president
rejects PM
Draghi's
resignation
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SPORT

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

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

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

3. Social affairs

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

Aung La N Sang to fight against Andre Galvao in special challenge

FORMER two-division ONE World Champion Aung La N Sang will fight against former Brazilian jiu-jitsu Champion Andre Galvao in a special challenge fight arranged by ONE Championship, said ONE official.

The ONE Championship is set to feature some exciting events this year, with a special bout featuring Aung La N Sang and Andre Galvao competing against each other with MMA and wrestling rules.

The match will be held in four rounds, and the first and third rounds will be MMA rules. In the second and fourth



Former two-division ONE Championship World Champion Aung La N Sang (left) and former Brazilian jiu-jitsu Champion Andre Galvao (right). **PHOTO: ONE CHAMPIONSHIP**

rounds, they must fight by ONE Championship has only released the event sched-

ule and will announce the event date again.

This is Aung La N Sang's another bout this year after his fight with Vitaly Bigdash in the middleweight challenge in February.

Aung La N Sang was able to stand as the middleweight and light heavyweight world champion, but he had to lose the championship belts in October 2020 and April 2021 to the Dutchman De Ridder.

The ONE Championship has hosted special wrestling events, as well as MMA and Thai martial arts specials. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Myanmar National League Week 4 to be held today

THE fourth series of the 2022 Myanmar National League competition will be held this week and will have some good matches.

The MNL fourth week will begin today with a match played between Hanthawady United and Yadana-bon FC. On 17 July, GFA will take on Mahar United, and ISPE FC will face defending champion Shan United on 18 July.

Next, Ayeyawady United will play with Yangon United on 20 July, and Myawady will meet Rakhine United on 21 July.

After the previous Week 3, Shan United and Yangon United are leading the table with nine points after playing three games.

The remaining teams got respective victories except for Rakhine United and GFA FC who have lost all three matches.

In this week's matches, the defending champion Shan United, who is leading the table, will have to play against the tough ISPE FC, and they will likely struggle to continue winning.

All the MNL matches this week will be held at Thuwunna Stadium and will start at 3 pm. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Myanmar miss final after loss to Thai team in AFF Women's Championship semifinal

MYANMAR national women's football team lost 0-2 to Thailand women's team in the semifinal of the AFF Women's Championship at Rizal Memorial Stadium in Manila, the Philippines yesterday. The loss leads team Myanmar to miss the final match.

In the first half of the match, the Myanmar team was able to put pressure on the Thai team with the advantage of football possession, but they could not use the effective scoring chances from the attack and did not score any goals.

After 45 minutes of normal play in the first half, in the two minutes of injury time, the Thai team scored the opening goal through a counter-attack by striker Kanyanat Chetthabut, and the Thai team won 1-0 after the first half. At the beginning of the second half, the Myanmar team fought

back to get the equalizer but failed to score due to the weak ending skill. The Thai team got the second goal in the 82nd minute and substitute Saowalak scored the goal beautifully.

Thai entered the final with a 2-0 victory over team Myanmar.

"The better team wins this match. Congratulations to the Thai team for reaching the final. There were a lot of scoring opportunities during the match, but they were not used. The team's weaknesses, including defence, will be prepared before the third-place match and we will compete at our best," said Myanmar head coach Daw Thet Thet Win during the press conference after the match. Myanmar will play against Viet Nam for the third place while Thailand will take on the Philippines in the final for the championship title. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM



Myanmar team player Myat Noe Khin (red) attempts to pass against the Thai player (blue) during their AFF Women's Championship semifinal match at Rizal Memorial Stadium in Manila, the Philippines on 15 July 2022. **PHOTO: MFF**