

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Sunday, 14 August 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.

Information on detection of SARS-CoV-2 Omicron Variant

1. The Ministry of Health is continuously conducting "COVID-19 Molecular Disease Surveillance", and releasing information on the detection of COVID-19 cases and SARS CoV-2 Omicron Variant from those who return by commercial flights and relief flights, and via border checkpoints in a timely manner.
2. The 32 laboratory samples of COVID-19 virus of positive cases were sent to the Department of Medical Research on 1-8-2022 and the SARS-CoV-2 Omicron Variant BA.2.75 was found in two laboratory samples, BA.2.76 in one laboratory sample, BA.4 in one laboratory sample and BA.5 in 28 laboratory samples.
3. Twenty-five patients – two BA.2.75 cases, one BA.4 case and 22 BA.5 cases – are returnees from foreign countries and another seven patients – one BA.2.76 case and six BA.5 cases – are local transmissions. They all completed isolation since they had tested positive for COVID-19, and are in good condition at present.
4. According to the findings of international countries, the Omicron variants cause less severe illness and fewer deaths among those who are fully vaccinated.
5. Therefore, the Ministry is stepping up COVID-19 disease monitoring and control measures in addition to disease prevention, control and treatment activities.

Ministry of Health
13.8.2022

Over 200,000 domestic, foreign tourists enter southern Shan State in H1 2022



International travellers take the boat ride in the Inlay Lake. PHOTO: CHANTHA (MEIKTILA)

MORE than 200,000 domestic and foreign travellers visited southern Shan State from January 2022 to the end of July, according to the Shan State Hotels and Tourism Directorate.

During the seven months from January to the end of July, a total of 204,901 travellers including 202,846 domestic ones and 2,055 foreign tourists visited stupas and landmarks in southern Shan State.

In addition to domestic pilgrims, foreign tourists from China, South Korea and Japan visited these places.

A total of 204,901 travellers including 25,929 domestic ones and 206 foreign tourists in January, 18,541 local tourists and 89 foreign travellers in February, 22,868 local travellers and 176 international tourists in March, 47,389 domestic travellers and 494 foreign tourists in April, 33,501 domestic tourists and 184 international travellers in May, 25,134 local travellers and 237 foreign tourists in June, 29,484 domestic travellers and 669 international travellers in July visited such cities in southern Shan State as Taunggyi, Hopong, Shwenyaung, Nyaungshwe, Kalaw, Aungban, Heho, Ywangan, Pekhon, Pindaya, Namsang and Pinlong. — TWA/GNLM

There are 8 colors to choose from, including a "Maroon Color Mask" specially designed for monks.

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Those wishing to enter the legal fold can contact respective townships' Red Cross Society, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, Social Welfare Office and social welfare organizations authorized by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in addition to reception centres in border areas, Tatmadaw units and police stations

THE Information Team of the State Administration Council has released statements inviting CDM staff, students and youths, who are in border areas and ethnic armed groups, they can contact the nearest reception centres in border areas, Tatmadaw units and police stations if they want to enter the legal fold and the government will guarantee their lives following the rules and regulations.

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. Meanwhile, 3,156 education workers, who were absent from their duties, another 1,009 people, who want to withdraw the cases that were opened against them, and 231 PDF members have contacted and returned to the legal fold. Then, they were given back to their parents systematically and the numbers of people who enter the legal fold and those who wish to are rising. Therefore, the government is making efforts to accept more numbers of those people.

The government opens reception centres in bor-

der areas for those who would like to return to the legal fold. Moreover, those wishing to return home can contact respective townships' Red Cross Society, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, Social Welfare Office and social welfare organizations authorized by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. It is guaranteed that they will be able to lead their daily lives peacefully.

*Information Team
State Administration Council*

Knowledge Sharing Programme on "Project Delivery System" held



The Knowledge Sharing Programme No 19 on "Project Delivery System" of the office of the Union Auditor-General is held in Nay Pyi Taw on 11 August.

THE Knowledge Sharing Programme No 19 on "Project Delivery System" was held at 2 pm on 11 August at the Assembly Hall of the Office of the Auditor-General of the Union in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the ceremony, Union Auditor-General Dr Kan Zaw delivered an address saying that the Knowledge Sharing Programme has been successfully held 19 times for the improvement of the knowledge of the staff; the Office of the Auditor-General of the Union is mainly responsible for the financial audit, performance audit and compliance audit in line with the international standards; the Real-Time Audit which is the audit of project implementation throughout the processes from the beginning to the end is now being initiated; the highways and bridges construction pro-

jects are crucial amongst the projects implemented in our country; the projects are to be implemented focusing the public interest and effectiveness for the development of the nation.

Therefore, he urged the participants to learn the processes of organization and selection for highways and bridges construction projects and create a brainstorming session by discussing, raising questions and giving advice.

Then, U Kyaw Thiha, Chief Engineer (Construction), Department of Highways, Ministry of Construction, and Daw Ei Ei Myo, Director (Civil), Road Maintenance Section/Project Appraisal, Quality Control and Quality Assurance Section, and their team presented and discussed the projects delivery system in

the area of the Project Organization, Contract Type, Contractor Selection, Lump Sum Contract and Unit Price Contract with case studies.

After that, attendees raised questions and exchanged knowledge and discussion.

The ceremony was attended by the permanent secretary, the director-general (Audit Department), the deputy permanent secretary, the deputy directors-general (Admin/Audit), directors, deputy directors, assistant directors, staff officers, and senior auditors, totalling 408, not only from the Assembly Hall but also virtually from two training school rooms, the Myanmar Accountancy Council Office and Region/State Auditor-General Offices, in line with COVID-19 rules and regulations. — MNA

Announcement to apply for university admission who will pass matriculation exam in 2022

STUDENTS who passed the matriculation examination in 2022 must collect the score list from the supervisors of the examination department where they took the exam, the summary score level, the university admission guidebook and the envelope by 18 August in order to apply for university admission.

Those application forms envelop can be applied by the university under description from 18 August to 2 September including Saturday, Sunday and gazette holidays.

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 1 Myitkyina University | 14 University of Distance Education, Mandalay |
| 2 Loikaw University | 15 Meiktila University |
| 3 Hpa-an University | 16 Kyaukse University |
| 4 Haka University | 17 Mawlamyine University |
| 5 Monywa University | 18 Sittway University |
| 6 Shwebo University | 19 Taungup University |
| 7 Sagaing University | 20 University of Distance Education, Yangon |
| 8 Dawei University | 21 Taunggyi University |
| 9 Toungoo University | 22 Lashio University |
| 10 Pyay University | 23 Kengtung University |
| 11 Bago University | 24 Patheingyi University |
| 12 Magway University | 25 Hinthada University |
| 13 Pakokku University | 26 Maubin University |

Applicants who will pass the deadline date need to be sent Higher Education Department (Yangon branch) which is situated at Thaton Street, Kamarut Township in Yangon.

For more details, applicants can contact the Higher Education Department (Yangon), Thaton Street, Kamayut Township in Yangon. Phone no – 017-537677, 017-525612 and 017-503147.

Ministry of Education

Further invitation to remnant groups to hold talks

DEMOCRACY as well as federalism requires equal rights. Talks will continue with the ethnic armed organizations to restore peace.

Good results came out from the talks with EAOs. Efforts will continue to restore peace by holding better talks.

Some EAOs cannot participate in the talks for various reasons. In line with the firm implementation of two political visions, the government further invites remnant groups to hold talks.

(The excerpt from the speech delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in meeting with ministers of Yangon Region government on 9 June 2022.)

MoH keeps accelerating COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities

UNION Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win presided over a coordination meeting on accelerating the momentum in COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities with a hybrid system yesterday.

During the meeting, the Union minister talked about the rising cases of Omicron BA.4 and BA.5 subvariants of the COVID-19 pandemic across the world including Myanmar, and the need to follow health rules by returnees, especially at the entry and exit of border crossings, vaccination programmes of booster doses, Additional booster doses, public awareness programmes,

supply of medicines and medical equipment, inventory of the remaining and needed amount of medical supplies and timely assistance of central level to regions/states.

Then, Deputy Minister Prof Dr Aye Tun explained the preparation of treatment centres, beds, medicines and medical supplies as positive cases are high again.

Relevant health officials of regions and states also reported on COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities conducted in regions, states and Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA



MoH Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win chairs the coordination meeting to accelerate anti-COVID-19 measures yesterday.

Myanmar marks International Youth Day 2022



International Youth Day 2022 event is in progress on 12 August.

THE International Youth Day 2022 ceremony was held in Nay Pyi Taw on 12 August.

First, Union Minister for

Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan said that out of the eight billion world population today, 18 per cent are young people,

and among 654 million people in the ASEAN region, 34 per cent are youths between the age of 15 and 35. The youths are the lead-

ers of the future, technological innovators, peacemakers, startups, the labour force and human resources. It needs to mentor the young people for the emergence of skilful citizens systematically.

The theme of International Youth Day for the year 2022 is “Intergenerational Solidarity: Creating a World for All Ages”.

Every generation needs to take action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and further action is needed to create a better and more sustainable future with the participation of people of all generations.

In Myanmar, the number of young people who can work properly is high and so it possesses a demographic bonus.

If such possession is used

effectively, it can support the development of the country. The young people are precious human resources for the country and a firm group and leaders of the future. If they are trained to become skilful citizens, it can create a harmonious society in the future.

Then, the Union minister and the deputy minister gave cash prizes and certificates of honour to 16 young athletes who won gold medals in the 31st SEA Games and five students who won prizes in the essay competition marking International Youth Day.

Afterwards, Ma Thiri Nan San, the first prize winner in the essay competition reported on the further assistance to be provided by officials for the comprehensive development of youths on behalf of young people. — MNA

25 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 13 August, total figure rises to 614,360

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **614,360** after **25** new cases were reported on 13 August 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **593,089** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll stands at **19,435** without more casualties.—MNA

CURRENT AFFAIRS

No restriction on unmanned cargo delivery services: MoTC

THERE is no restriction on unmanned cargo delivery services of highway bus lines from Yangon to other regions/states, according to the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

The rumours spread that the Yangon-based highway bus lines are not allowed to transport unmanned parcels recently. Starting 4 August, authorities informed the bus lines and cargo transport counters at the Aung San Stadium in Mingala Taungnyunt Township that they no longer permit cargo services of highway bus lines. After that, the rumours spread like that.

“Currently, the cargo service is available at the Aung Mingala Highway Bus Terminal



Product receiving counters of express lines are pictured around the Aung San Stadium.

and U Chitt Maung station. The officials instructed not to transport the 19 restricted materials.

The unmanned parcels are still available,” said an official of the highway bus line.

Counters at the Aung San Stadium are branches of the Aung Mingala Highway Bus

Terminal and various bus lines are concentrated there. The ban on loading and unloading processes causes difficulties to the business people

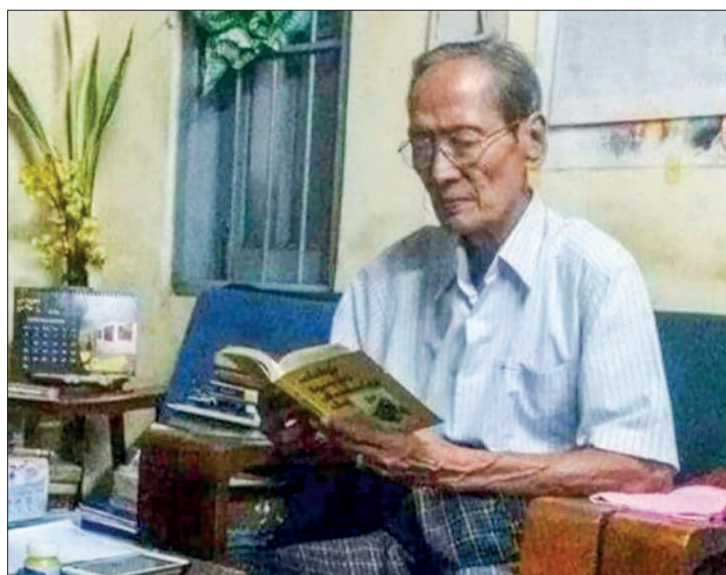
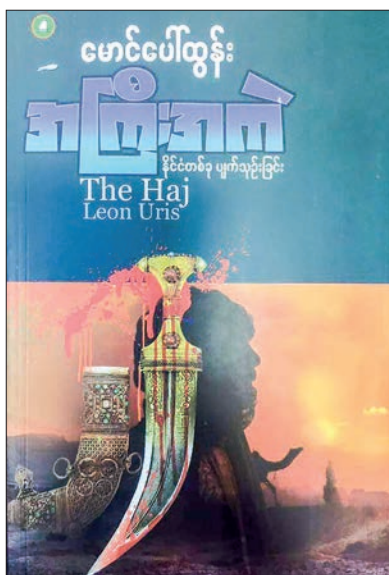
Recently, the counters at the Aung San Stadium did not offer services for unmanned parcels but the stations at Aung Mingala Highway Bus Terminal and in the downtown area.

It aims to launch heavy maintenance on the stadium.

The express buses are not allowed to carry 19 types of materials including drones, binoculars, iron materials, wire, solar and power bank.

Moreover, the express buses must put the cargo and parcels inside the belly and if they fail to follow, they will face legal action. — TWA/GNLM

National Lifetime Award for Literary Achievement winner Sayagyi Maung Paw Tun passes away at 87



Sayagyi Maung Paw Tun and his translated novels.

SAYAGYI Maung Paw Tun, a recipient of the National Lifetime Award for Literary Achievement, died of old age at the military hospital on the morning of 13 August.

His translated novels Kane and Able, Freedom at Midnight,

The Haj, Bloodline, Is Paris Burning and so on are still famous in the literacy field so far.

Saya Maung Paw Tun (aka) Khin Maung Soe was son of artist and wood carver U Maung Pu and Daw Aye and born on 14 May 1935 in Shwemyatwah

Village in Manaung Township of Rakhine State.

He completed primary education at monastic school and high school in his native township and continued his learning in Yangon at 15 and received first prize in the stenography

contest of Hla Commercial College.

In 1955, he worked as a stenographer at the Myanmar Translation Society (Sarpay Beikman) and passed the high school exam in 1967-68 with one distinction, English.

He won the first prize in batch 1 of the journalism school and completed his BA (History) at Workers' College in 1973. In 1958, he entered the literacy field with translated Russian article called Seven-Year-Old Girls.

He translated the novels and wrote articles for magazines and journals and worked as an editor, editor-in-chief and consultant editor at Sar-Oak-Law-Ka Sar Saung, Pan Magazine, Cherry Magazine and Economic Magazine.

He jointly wrote, “Sar Oak Huu The” with Maung Su Shin and “Sar Nal Zin Huu The” with Maung Su Shin, Thein Tin (Han-

thawady).

In 1978, he retired from the position of supervisor of the Sarpay Beikman book association.

In 1997, he won the national literacy award for translating “Annie” and the second time for translating “Mera Naam Joker” in 2006. The government presented National Lifetime Award for Literary Achievement to him in 2014.

He translated and published about 50 novels including Revolt on the Nile, My Husband and My Lover, Pentagonism: A Substitute for Imperialism, The Big Wave and so on.

He translated the biography of Russian poet Yevtushenko, "An Indian Life", Hermann Hesse, The Big Wave, and The Haj of Leon Uris and introduced them to Myanmar readers. Sayagyi Maung Paw Tun died at 87 and the funeral will be held on 15 August. — TWA/GNLM

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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.

COVID-19 vaccine drive continues in various states, regions

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

COVID-19 vaccine is administered daily to target groups regardless of race or religion, including Buddhist monks and nuns, local people over the age of 40, students, religious leaders, prisoners, people with disabilities, ethnic armed groups, people with chronic diseases, people in IDP camps and over 12-year-old students, respectively.

Yesterday, doctors and nurses from public hospitals, medical teams from the Tatmadaw, relevant healthcare workers in collaboration with volunteers gave COVID-19 vaccines to 6,763 people from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, 816 people from three townships in Rakhine State, 5,887 local people from seven districts in Mandalay Region and 178 people from Toungoo and Bago in Bago Region, respectively.

Similarly on that day, healthcare officials gave the vaccines to 1,962 students from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, 176 students from Kyaukpyu Township in Rakhine State and 15,547 students from seven districts in



A student in Mandalay Region gets COVID-19 vaccine shot on 13 August.

Mandalay Region.

It is reported that officials from the respective Military

Commands visited the site and coordinated the necessary work. — MNA

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 9:00 am MST on 13-8-2022)

According to the 8:30 am MST observation yesterday, the water level of Maesai River Tachilek (Lawltawkham) has exceeded by about five feet above its danger level. It may continue to rise from the present water level by about (1½) feet during the next one day and may remain above its danger level.

Advisory

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river bank and low lying areas in Tachilek Township, to take precaution measures.

CRIME NEWS

Illegal foodstuffs, electronics, cobras, chemicals and vehicles confiscated



Seized cobras in Mandalay Region.



Confiscated items in Kayin State.

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

An inspection team under the instructions of the Yangon Region Anti-Illicit Trade Task Force conducted inspections on the Yangon-Hpa-an-Myawady Trade Road on 8 August.

Officials nabbed consumer goods and cosmetics that were different from the Import Declaration (ID) from a Mitsubishi 12-wheel truck (approximately K10 million) between Ye Mon village and Nyaungtathan village of Hlegu township. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Similarly, an on-duty com-

bined team under the supervision of the Mandalay Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force carried out inspections at the 16-Mile Kyaukchaw Checkpoint on 9 August.

They captured K510,000 worth of 51 illegal cobras that were hidden with snack cartons and passenger luggage from a Jinbei Haise car (approximately K13 million) heading from Mandalay to Muse township. In addition, 170 boxes of suspected Toluene liquid worth K2,380,000 that were hidden with Christian Bibles from a Nissan AD Van car (approximately K12 million). The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

On 12 August, the container terminal of Myanmar Industrial

Port captured K2 million worth of electric motors (550W) that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) and the action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Afterwards, 145 cartons of pears worth K3,625,000 that exceeded the Import Declaration (ID) from two vehicles heading from Myawady to Yangon were confiscated at Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) Combined Checkpoint under the Kayin State Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force and the action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Therefore, eight arrests (approximately K43,515,000) were made on 8, 9 and 12 August, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

Drugs impounded in some townships

A combined team consisting of the Anti-Drug Police Force searched an MG vehicle, which is driven by Ma Nang Wo Phat at Lwalsitone village, Wanlone village-tract in Tachilek township at 5:45 pm on 11 August. The team found 200 Ecstasy tablets, 0.075 kilogramme of Happy Water from her. The team also searched her house at No 117, Thanlwin 1 street, Wanekyauk ward in Tachilek township at 6:15 pm. They found 0.225 kilogramme of Happy Water and 15 Ecstasy tablets from her house. Then, the team arrested Sai Khan Mee, who is a drug dealer at Arkhar market, Wanekyauk ward in Tachilek township at 6:40 pm.

Similarly, the Anti-Drug Special Task Force searched

a Hijet vehicle, which is driven by Aiksar at Tarkawat village checkpoint, Winemai village-tract in Tangyan township at 12:30 pm on 12 August. The team seized 25.2 kilogrammes of raw opium. Then, the combined team of the Anti-Drug Police Force searched a motorcycle driven by Than Toe Aung at Kholone village, Nuangann village-tract in Hsipaw township at 9 am on 12 August. The team nabbed 60,000 stimulant tablets from him. At the same place, the team searched a motorcycle driven by Yan Tar at 9:20 am. They impounded 54,000 stimulant tablets.

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



An arrestee is pictured along with seized drugs and a motorbike.

ARTICLE

Marketable eel farming enlightens the future of rural community

By Thitsa (MNA)

MYANMAR has its strategic long coastlines and belongs to the rich marine resources and mineral resources. Myanmar's fishery product is beyond self-sufficiency. The agriculture and livestock sectors are the backbones of the country. Moreover, it generates foreign currencies from the exports of freshwater and saltwater aquaculture products. The livestock sector contributes to the country's economic growth to a great extent. Livestock is an integral component of the mixed farming system and livestock production in harmony with nature can effectuate sustainable rural development.

Exporting countries of fish and fishery products

Myanmar's farmers and fish breeders were previously engaged in cost-effective eel farming. However, limited resources of eel larvae posed difficulties for them to continue the commercially valued eel farming. Therefore, Myanmar's eels are primarily caught from the wild and exported to foreign markets. Farming of native eels on a manageable scale can increase the income of the farms and also protect them from extinction triggered by over-exploitation from the natural habitats in central and lower Myanmar for a decade. It will also support the country's fishery supply chain. The Department of Fisheries and the Myanmar Fisheries Federation are providing technical assistance to the breeders to achieve eel commercial farming as one of the fishery products exporting countries with rich marine resources.

Nutritional benefits of eel

People consider eels to be strikingly similar to snakes, yet there is high consumption of eels in some countries. Eel culture is a low-cost business and it is a profitable business. There are successful eel farms in some ASEAN countries. Mucus is covered in this snake-like boneless fish. It has an elongated and scale-less body. The dorsal and anal fins of the commercially important rice field eel, also known as swamp eel, are continuous around the tail tip. It is sex reversing. The culture of Asian swamp eels (*Monopterus*) is successful in fish



Myanmar Fisheries Federation conducted artificial seedling of eel production on a trial run in July 2022 in Twantay, Yangon Region. **PHOTOS: THITSA**

farming lakes and stations in China, Indonesia, Viet Nam, Thailand and the Philippines. Eels caught from the wild and harvested from the farms are offered at a high price. Myanmar mainly exports them to China every year. Eel has 303 calories and 14 per cent of protein. People prefer eels as a nutritional food.

Eel culture enterprise with high profitability

Out of many eel species in the world, six species can be found only in Asia. Rice paddy eel and mud eel (*Monopterusuchia*) farming with brick ponds on a manageable scale are seen. They are also bred with other types of lakes. This fishery product can be farmed all year round without chemical exposure. The eel can thrive in low-oxygen conditions. Eels eat Fish, snails, aquatic insects and boneless animals such as worms. It is a low-cost business with high profits.

Pond preparation of eel culture

For eel farming on a manageable scale, two (2x1x1 metres) ponds must be adjacent. The surface area of the two ponds is four square metres. Mud must be put into half of the lake (ten centimetres). The pond leaking problem must be fixed as well. After that, dried paddy straw must be covered at a ten-centimetre height. For the third stage, Banana stems must be layered to a ten-centimetre height. Cow dung (a ten-centimetre-high layer) must be added in four stages.

After that, mud must be covered again. A steep bank structure must be maintained in the pond with stones. Breeders can make artificial lakes with tarpaulins as well.

Stages of eel culture

Rainwater or underground water can be added to the pond after getting rid of chlorine in the water. The water layer (15 centimetres) must be the surface area of the pond. This way, the component parts will be decayed. After one week, pond water must be removed and fresh water must be added. Fresh water must be changed every 20-25 days until foam disappears. Tilapia or carp fish larvae must be raised in the ponds on a trial run. If the fish do not die within three days, the pond is ready to farm the eels. The pond must be prepared like soil in a paddy field. Before eel larvae are added into that pond, water hyacinth must be put over the mud layer so that it can protect eels from sunlight and create a place to hide. About 200 eel larvae (60 male and 140 female) can be put into that pond. Eel is nine inches long at one year old. Eels can lay 100-700 eggs during spawning. Breeders must take extra care to take care of the eel larvae.

The mating season is commonly between May and June. The breeders who work on a manageable scale should choose eel larvae born during that season. Eel culture can be carried out with a one-year-old eel (17 centimetres) in healthy conditions.

They can be raised in a concrete pond with a 50-centimetre-deep water level. About 12.5 to 15 centimetres long 100 eel larvae can be farmed in the lake.

Tips on feeding eels

Aquatic animal protein sources such as fish meal and feed mixed with bran can be utilized as supplementary feeding. Snail meal is also eel feed. Feeding time must be accurate. As eels are active at night, it is more effective if they are fed during the dark hours. Feed residue must be removed to maintain the water quality of the pond. Feed trays must be placed in the lower level of the pond for two days and pulled gradually. Eels must be

into powder or meal. Feed must be well preserved as well.

Marketable eel

Measuring eel size must be undertaken biweekly for three months. Pond water must be changed once a month. Eel is 28-48 centimetres long at three years old. The fertile eel is 12 inches long (28 centimetres) for females and 20 inches long (46 centimetres) for males. The male is bigger than the female. The weight of the eel will increase from three kilogrammes to 20-30 kilogrammes after six months of breeding. After eels are harvested, the ponds must be dried for a few days to restart eel farming. Eels can be placed in the market through manageable eel farming.

Eel harvesting and handling practices

Grading eel size to reach market value and market conditions must be observed before eel harvesting. Continuous eel farming can be conducted if breeders prepare new ponds. Eels can be harvested easily at nighttime by pulling the feed tray. Proper handling during the harvesting is required not to damage the eel as it can result in loss to the breeding.

For post-harvest handling, eels must be cleaned. They can be transported in 10-gallon plastic containers with small amounts of water. About 15-30 kilogrammes



closely observed to check whether they have an animal disease or not. Dried feed must be made

of eels can be added into one container. It must have a 1 cm air hole. Suppliers can keep eels

ARTICLE/NATIONAL

alive in the 0.75-metre-high plastic pond, timber pond or barrel. About 100-150 kilogrammes of eels can be put into one square metre place. A large amount of water must be added for keeping eels alive. Water must be changed twice a day. Feeding must be avoided during storing the eels.

Eels can be transported for 8-10 hours with the use of a 2.5 feet-high plastic box filled with water. The cover of the box must have an air hole. Handling practices is crucial for profit-making.

Eel nature and habits

Eel reproduction is found between March and September, mostly in July. Year-round spawning takes place. The highest mating season is the May-June period and the lowest season is December-January period. As eels can undergo sex reversal naturally. Male eels tend to make foams to create egg nests. After two or three days, Female eels lay eggs in those foam nests. The egg can hatch at 25°C. *Monopterus albus* is also known as rice field eel. Eels can be raised with any type of water except underground water, well-water, river water and saltwater.

Eel farming contributes to ecosystem

Paddy fields are the natural habitat for eels. They help reduce

the population of snails in the fields. The farmers commonly raise the eels near the fields. Nonetheless, eels can destroy field channels and cause water losses in the rice field. Prevention measures must be taken for the field channels. Snail is considered an invader and a problem to rice fields in Asian countries. Eels can support the ecosystem of rice fields. Eels are considered an ideal species for rice paddy farming. Mixed farming of eels and rice on a manageable scale is mostly found in the rainy season.

Eel is listed in the sixth place among ten major fishery products



For eel farming on a manageable scale, two (2x1x1 metres) ponds must be adjacent. The surface area of the two ponds is four square metres. Mud must be put into half of the lake (ten centimetres).

products

Eels are yearly shipped to external markets. To conserve native eels and execute commercial livestock breeding under a mixed farming system, Myanmar Fisheries Federation conducted artificial seedling of eel production on a trial run in July 2022 in Twantay, Yangon Region and reaped a fruitful result. It enlightens the future of the farmers. The major fishery products of the country are rohu, crab, fish meal, large head hairtail, hilsa, soft-shelled crab, shrimp, squid, tiger prawn and eels. Out of them, the eel is placed sixth. Myanmar exported 8,849.69 metric tons (MT) of eels

in the 2009-2010 financial year. The country generated US\$31.022 million from exports of 8,661 MT of eels in the 2018-2019FY. There is an illegal export of eel to China. Eliminating illicit trade is required as the black market can negatively affect the long-term market and legal trade route.

Collecting eel larvae and conservation

Small-sized eels are caught for eel farming in Myanmar. Those larvae are not marketable. Brown and red eels with an average weight of 1.3 ticals are commonly farmed. The small eels from the wild are not large

enough to reach export market value and they are offered at low prices in the domestic market as well. This being so, eels might be extinct from overexploitation and which leads to marine resource depletion. Eels are a commercially important fishery product in foreign markets. Conservation of eels and dissemination of artificial reproduction methods to the farmers can increase the revenue of the State and enhance the socio-economy of the rural community.

Future prospects of eel culture

There were 16 species of freshwater eel registered before 2019. In 2019, scientists discovered new eel species and two subspecies. Therefore, the number of freshwater eel species totalled 19. Out of them, six are found in Asia. Myanmar has two native eels; brown and red eels. Eels fetch the highest price in January and February. If eel farming is thriving, it can penetrate European markets beyond Asia. Being listed as one of the major fishery products, I wrote this article with an aim to improve the future prospects of the commercially valued eel farming business that can create job opportunities in rural areas and bring about social and economic benefits.

Translated.

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

14-8-2022

Kyat/Litre

Fuel (Retail Price)	Yangon	Mandalay	Nay Pyi Taw	Bago	Magway	Dawei	Monywa	Patheingyi	Myittha	Sittway	Hpa-an	Mawlaikyne	Lashio	Taunggyi	Loikaw	Haka	Kengtung
92 Ron	2,320	2,365	2,360	2,330	2,365	2,390	2,375	2,350	2,445	2,460	2,360	2,365	2,400	2,405	2,405	2,625	2,855
95 Ron	2,390	2,435	2,435	2,395	2,435	2,455	2,440	2,420	2,515	2,530	2,425	2,440	2,470	2,470	2,470	2,690	2,925
HSD (500 ppm)	2,655	2,700	2,695	2,660	2,700	2,720	2,715	2,685	2,800	2,795	2,690	2,700	2,735	2,735	2,740	2,955	3,225
HSD (50 ppm)	2,730	2,775	2,770	2,735	2,775	2,795	2,790	2,760	2,875	2,870	2,765	2,775	2,810	2,810	2,815	30,30	3,260
HSD (10 ppm)	2,730	2,775	2,770	2,735	2,775	2,795	2,790	2,760	2,875	2,870	2,765	2,775	2,810	2,810	2,815	3,030	3,260

Fuel (Wholesale Price)	Yangon	Mandalay
92 Ron	2,213	2,291
95 Ron	2,278	2,357
HSD (500 ppm)	2,537	2,617
HSD (50 ppm)	2,608	2,690
HSD (10 ppm)	2,608	2,690

Remarks:

- (1) It's calculation is based on MOPS price.
- (2) If people are not satisfied with purchase of fuel, they may safely send complaints to telephone numbers of the committee as follows: -

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

Fuel Import, Storage and Distribution Supervisory Committee

OPINION

ARTICLE BOOKRACK

Don't bully each other, build a peaceful world

BULLYING never benefits people from all walks of life. At all the time when bullying is still alive, all communities across the world will never enjoy the fruits of the restoration of peace. Various forms of bullying cannot help restore perpetual peace for mankind throughout the world.

Today's world is full of bullying events. Most of the global people, especially powerful ones are attempting to commit bullying against the weaker ones. Everybody cannot deny that such bullying cannot help society have peace and prosperity but much commits the darkness for all. It is a universal truth.

Those who commit bullying against others do not culture sympathy, empathy, compassion and loving-kindness towards others. Their hearts and souls are not home to these sympathies and compassions for global peoples.

Everybody knows it is difficult to emerge a life in the world. Anyone should not harm the lives of other persons. All living beings including animals are in fear of losing their lives. So, no one should attempt to destroy the lives of others. Even destructionists love their life and limbs. If so, they need to consider everybody would love their life and limbs. Hence, all persons are to live in peaceful co-existence among themselves and build a peaceful world without harming each other.

peace and prosperity. Consequently, the world can save lives from all inappropriate incidents of sabotages.

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The bully persons are always happy for their worst deeds making trouble for others.

In the secular world, the persons from the lighting and darkness worlds are living in parallel. Those persons are separately living in respective arenas. Although those persons from the legal fold never attempt to provoke the persons outside the legal fold, the persons from the latter are always trying hard to make attempts to fight the persons from the legal fold as part of expanding their arena. If possible, they wish to govern all parts of the arena to be put under their illegal fold.

The Lord Buddha preached Dhamma and Adhamma which mean the right doctrine and false doctrine. The right doctrine is always representing the right and correct things and events whereas the false doctrine features malpractices. Only when all the global peoples, including Myanmar people, follow the honest and righteous practices with compassion forever will the Dhamma called right doctrine influence over the false doctrine. As such, the whole world will have the chance to enjoy the fruits of

Positive

By Chit Ko Pe

IT IS the word - "Positive" that people on the earth do not want to hear these days when it comes to the Covid-19 test. In the context of medical diagnosis, 'positive' shows a disease while 'negative' means no disease. Therefore, I can say: "Being negative is positive (good) so long as a medical test is concerned.

Linguistically or conversationally 'positive' means good or appreciative. Examples are a positive attitude, positive thought, positive view, positive sign, positive quote, positive move, and

so forth.

When it comes to the key performance indicator (KPI) for a country's development, the gross domestic product (GDP) is the yardstick widely used for positive expression. No negative expression is generally adopted to measure the country's development. The USA and China are the top two countries in terms of both GDP and External Debt categories. The latest World Bank records show the United States and China with 20.89 trillion USD and 14.72 trillion USD under the

GDP category, and 30.4 trillion USD and 13 trillion USD under the External Debt category, respectively. These two superpowers' strength and growth of GDP belie the vulnerability and severity of External Debt. But they are well known for their strengths, not for debt. My discreet remark is unequivocally drawn - positivity outshines negativity.

Contrary to this notation, most countries are found steadfast with negative expressions on their countries' workplace safety and health performance. The lag-



Workplace safety refers to the working environment at a company and encompasses all factors that impact the safety, health, and well-being of employees. ILLUSTRATION: FREEPIK.

ging indicators such as number of accidents, number of injuries, number of casualties, accident frequency rate, accident severity rate, fatality rate, etc. are generally used to mention the level of workplace safety and health performance on a project-basis or a country basis. For example, Singapore set one of its work

safety targets - to achieve and sustain a workplace fatal injury rate of less than 1.0 per 100,000 workers by 2028 during the XXI World Congress on Safety and

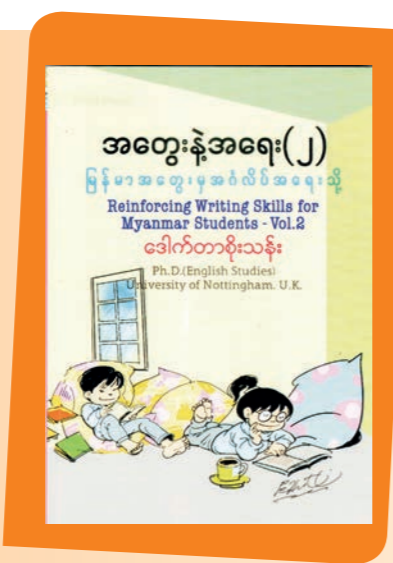
Health at Work in September 2017. It followed the Netherlands, Sweden, United Kingdom and Germany which were praiseworthy recorded with a fatality rate less than 1.0 obtained in the period of 2014-17.

These negative KPIs reflect past events, but barely provide any signs on how things could be turned good or actions improved. One cannot dwell on the past but needs to move on with fresh outlooks setting aside or doing away with old or outdated approaches. A change with effective ways is needed for improvement and sustainability. A comprehensive review and analysis shall be conducted to find out where the fault or weakness exists. I mean we have to be optimistic with positive approaches towards positive targets over negative ones.

On this matter, I did research some twelve years ago. It was the thesis of a final module submitted for a master's degree in the field of Safety, Health and Environmental Technology at the National University of Singapore. The title

of the thesis was safety measurement in the construction industry. An innovative approach - Activity Safety Meter (ASM) was created and presented in the thesis. The parameters in ASM were all positive indicators such as group safety patrol with management, safety training, safety talk, safety demonstration, safety promotion, safety campaign, safety time-out, safety audit, etc. The optimum level of 75 per cent was set for each parameter after reviewing findings and feedback obtained at three construction workplaces under my safety purview in Singapore. It was thoroughly debated by two professors who attended my presentation session then. The debate continued with other conference participants when I read the paper (the same thesis, representing NUS) at the CIB W099 International Conference held on the "Modelling and Building Health and Safety" theme in September 2012 in Singapore.

SEE PAGE-10



Book Title - Reinforcing Writing Skills for Myanmar Students - Vol 2
Author - Dr Soe Than, PhD (English) at the University of Nottingham (UK)
Publishing House - Seikku Cho Cho
Publication Date - August 2022 (1st Edition)
Price - K5,000

Reinforcing Writing Skills for Myanmar Students - Vol 2

THE important role of English in daily life is vividly seen in the digital age. The world can be described as a global village where people across the globe can communicate in real-time and English has become essential in our lives. This week's pick will help the students, as well as English learners, improve writing dramatically.

Reinforcing Writing Skills for Myanmar Students - Vol 1 was successful with many copies. This Vol 2 includes about 600

sample sentences explaining how to build sentence structure and use the correct word. The prominent feature of this book is highlighting the stylistic variation. The author incorporated stylistic techniques into his writing for the readers to improve their writing skills. The book will have different writing styles: informal and formal writing styles. It explains sentence structure and types of sentences. As far as you know, you can use idiomatic expressions. It can paint

a picture of words, the author stated in the preamble.

Some use the simple sentence 'The dog was biting and shaking its bone'. However, one can use an interesting phrasal verb 'worry at' in this sentence. 'The dog was worrying at a bone'. In this sentence, worry is not meant just concerns. 'Worrying about' is feeling anxious about someone or something. Yet, the definition of the phrasal verb 'worry at' is to bite something and shake or pull it repeatedly.

The readers can learn in the following sentences 'Rebecca worried at her lip'. and 'He began to worry at the knot in the cord'.

My grandmother doesn't need a walking stick (a walking cane); she can walk unassisted. Otherwise, one can just say a clear and concise sentence that 'She can walk without anyone's help'. It sounds more like a native speaker when you speak. Adjectives such as 'unassisted, unaided, unsupported' can follow the verb 'walk' directly. Without a doubt, one can use this usage.

If I give you another sample sentence, the dentist just says 'Open your mouth wide', not 'Open your mouth widely'. The word 'wide' can be used as both adjective and adverb. One needs to look up the words 'wide and widely' in a dictionary. The author suggests the learners stop memorizing the grammar rules like the formula as we cannot make a notch at the side of the moving boat. One can go into detail about what authentic English is through reading. The author highlighted that one should never abandon a dictionary.



Book Title - Key to success for young people
Author - Dr Tun Win
Publishing House - Lin Lun Khin
Publication Date - February 2021 (2nd Edition)
Price - K3,000

Key to success for young people

TO become a successful person needs helpful tips. There are certain rules that you can follow to become truly successful. If a successful person has a toxic personality, he or she will bring negativity in one's own life or to the environment. This book entitled "Key to success for young people" will help one achieve true success.

The author Dr Tun Win grew up in a rural area. He had leadership experience in NGO projects and also served for

WHO. Furthermore, he opens a management school. Saya Kyaw Saw Min complimented the author in the preamble that the book will illustrate how Dr Win Tun's experiences reaped fruitful results.

Articles in this book are not about taking immediate actions. The book illustrates the fact that motivation comes from different sources and real-life bitter and sweet experiences. It will guide one to distinguish between beneficial and toxic ones. A good

student does not mean he or she must be an alumna or an alumnus of the world's best university. The book contains 21 articles about staff who is scared of being fired and job security, staff who is not afraid of being unemployed and staff who is worried about being dismissed, globalization and an unthought factor of Myanmar people, evaluation of course and trainer in an effective way, the success of executive-level professionals, good virtues and personal values.

In an article stating 'the role of an attendee at an event or attendee guideline', the author made explicit that attendees have to follow the speaker or what he mentioned. We have to analyze things and determine what is right and wrong. We have to think more rationally on the basis of talks. We have to modify the speaker's views to achieve our goals. It is impossible that the speaker will address the right thing only. We do not have to turn a blind eye to one's sayings. We will just collect raw materials to level up our skills and make ourselves productive, the author firmly said.

An article entitled 'Overcoming stresses in life as a story' showed how to handle stressful situations in multiple ways. Moreover, the author enlightens the readers about rules for a better life and shares true-life inspiration under stories 'building self-esteem', 'fostering entrepreneurship' and 'having courage'. He concluded the book with the story entitled "Living with positive vibes".

ARTICLE/ENVIRON WORLD

FROM PAGE-9

My innovative approach – Activity Safety Meter (ASM) – was proved efficacious and supportive in setting objectives and targets, safety award selective criteria as well as banding for safety audits. The WSH 2028 published by Singapore’s Workplace Safety and Health Council in August 2019 also highlights the positive key performance indicators with specific percentages to be achieved by 2028. Some of them are: -

- 75 per cent of the proportion of workplaces under the Ministry of Manpower’s surveillance that implements upstream controls to remove noise and

- 50 per cent of all employees with access to employer-initiated health promotion activities, such as health screening, health coaching, and workplace exercise programmes,
- 75 per cent of employees in high-risk industries whose employers consider the impact of workforce health risks (e.g., hypertension and

Positive

- 75 per cent of employees in high-risk industries where top management is responsible for allocating manpower and/or financial resources for WSH,
- 75 per cent of employees in high-risk industries whose employers have a programme to encourage reporting of near-misses or unsafe conditions or unsafe

acts, and

- 75 per cent of employees in high-risk industries whose employers have a policy allowing employees to stop work should they feel the work environment or work activity is unsafe.

The positive KPIs are driven based on SMART, acronyms of five words – Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Timely particulars – describing what is being measured, recording growth against a standard,

setting targets realistic, transforming insight into actuality, and limiting to a specific timeframe, respectively.

As many multi-national companies (MNC) are adopting a triple-P bottom line (Profits, People and Planet) which measures their economies but also their social and environmental performance, setting positive KPIs becomes fashionable and popular in all aspects. As an individual, one can set positively his or her aspirations for a career or wealth or others vis-à-vis an age.

It is not negative but positive to get our thoughts, actions and expectations positive. ■

Volunteer firefighters key in France’s fight against wildfires



Volunteers usually sign up for a five-year period that can be extended afterwards. **PHOTO: AFP**

VOLUNTEER firefighters have been called up from their day jobs all over France this summer to help battle wildfires.

“It’s the first year we’ve been summoned so much to help outside” our region, said 23-year-old Victorien Pottier.

Volunteer firefighters make up more than three-quarters of

all the nearly 252,000 firefighters in the country, according to official figures.

They have been on the front-line dousing flames this summer as the country tackles a historic drought and a series heatwaves that experts say are being driven by climate change.

These have included a huge

blaze in the southwestern region of Gironde, which erupted in July and destroyed 14,000 hectares before it was contained.

But it continued to smoulder in the tinder-dry pine forests and peat-rich soil, and flared up again this week, burning a further 7,400 hectares.

When he is not on duty once every five weeks in northwest France, Pottier works preparing orders for a large dairy products manufacturer.

In the country’s southwest, Alisson Mendes, 36, a sales assistant for a prominent supermarket group, said she went to help fight the massive blaze in Gironde for two days.

She said she would be prepared to go back, but thought her chances were slim as she had heard there was a long waiting list of other volunteers hoping to go and help out.

“They prioritize those who’ve never been,” she said. —AFP

‘Dead fish everywhere’ in German-Polish river after feared chemical waste dump

THOUSANDS of fish have washed up dead on the Oder river running through Germany and Poland, sparking warnings of an environmental disaster as residents are urged to stay away from the water.

The fish floating by the German banks near the eastern town of Schwedt are believed to have washed upstream from Poland where first reports of mass fish deaths were made by locals and anglers as early as on 28 July.

German officials accused

Polish authorities of failing to inform them about the deaths, and were taken by surprise when the wave of lifeless fish came floating into view.

In Poland, the government has also come under heavy criticism for failing to take swift action.

Almost two weeks after the first dead fish appeared floating by Polish villages, Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said on Friday that “everyone had initially thought that it was a local problem”.—AFP



The fish floating by the German banks near the eastern town of Schwedt are believed to have washed upstream from Poland. **PHOTO: AFP**

Over 150 endangered vultures poisoned to death in southern Africa

AT least 150 critically-endangered vultures were poisoned to death in separate incidents in Botswana and South Africa, conservationists said Friday, warning the killings pushed the birds closer to extinction.

Vulture poisoning is not uncommon in wildlife-rich southern Africa, where they are tar-

geted by poachers because they draw unwanted attention to their illegal activities.

Their heads are also used in traditional medicine, according to wildlife groups.

In the latest incidents, more than 50 white-backed vultures were found dead in Botswana’s northern Chobe district on Fri-

day, while about 100 more were discovered in South Africa’s Kruger National Park Thursday, according to vulture conservation group Vulpro.

In both cases, the birds died after feeding from the carcass of a buffalo, which appeared to have been laced with poison, said Vulpro’s founder Kerri Wolter.

“What makes this even more catastrophic is that it’s breeding season now,” Wolter told AFP, explaining chicks will not survive without their parents.

Park officials in South Africa said they were investigating the incident, adding some of the carcasses appeared to have been

harvested for their body parts.

“Given the critical status of vultures globally, poisonings at this scale place the species at increasing risk of extinction,” Yolán Friedmann, the head of the Endangered Wildlife Trust conservation group, said in a statement on the Kruger incident.—AFP

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

Chinese student visas to US tumble from pre-pandemic levels: report

THE number of US student visas issued to Chinese nationals plunged by more than 50 per cent in the first half of 2022 compared with pre-COVID-19 levels, with the United States losing ground as the most-coveted place for Chinese students to pursue higher education abroad, reported The Wall Street Journal on Thursday.

“Even before the pandemic, Chinese students were shifting their study-abroad sights elsewhere, driven by doubts about whether they would feel welcome in the United States and the emergence of more domestic and

international alternatives. Travel restrictions and heightened safety concerns during the pandemic accelerated that decline,” said the report.

In the first six months of 2022, the United States issued 31,055 F-1 visas to Chinese nationals, down from 64,261 for the same period in 2019, according to data from the US State Department. “The drop has hit revenue at big and small colleges and universities around the country, including state flagships,” the report noted.

“For more than a decade, China has been the top source

of international students to the United States, providing universities with crucial tuition dollars to offset domestic declines and dwindling state funding at public universities,” said the report. In the 2019-20 academic year, before the pandemic depressed study-abroad numbers, Chinese nationals accounted for 35 per cent of foreigners studying in the United States and contributed 15.9 billion US dollars in economic value, according to numbers tracked and aggregated by the Institute of International Education’s Open Doors report.—Xinhua



Chinese Graduates of Columbia University attend the commencement ceremony in New York City, United States. PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE

COVID-19 SITUATION UPDATE WORLDWIDE

Japan’s agricultural minister tests positive for COVID-19

JAPAN’S minister of agriculture Tetsuro Nomura tested positive for the coronavirus, his ministry said Friday, a day before he had planned to get a fourth shot of the COVID-19 vaccine. Nomura, who assumed the post on Wednesday in a Cabinet reshuffle, has no symptoms and will isolate and work from home for a week, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries added. Health authorities are now working to identify close contacts, the ministry said.—Kyodo

India’s daily COVID-19 caseload falls to 15,815

INDIA’S daily COVID-19 caseload decreased to 15,815 on Saturday, taking the total tally to 44,239,372 in the country, according to federal health ministry data.

With the reporting of fresh cases, India’s active caseload currently stands at 119,264.

The country also logged 68 related deaths during the past 24 hours, pushing the overall death toll to 526,996 since the beginning of the pandemic, the ministry said.

With the increase in cases, the daily positivity rate stands



NEW DELHI: People make their way through a wholesale food grain market during a lockdown imposed as a preventive measure to curb the spread of COVID-19 on 4 June 2021. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

at 4.36 per cent and the weekly positivity rate was recorded at 4.79 per cent, the ministry data showed.

The ministry said so far 43,593,112 people have been successfully cured and discharged from hospitals, of whom 20,018 were discharged during the past 24 hours.

According to the federal health ministry, the cumulative COVID-19 vaccination coverage in the country has exceeded two billion doses and until Saturday morning, 2,077,162,098 doses were administered.—Xinhua

2022 MONKEYPOX OUTBREAK

Canada deploys over 99,000 doses of Imvamune vaccine on monkeypox response



People line up at Union Station in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, on 20 June 2022. PHOTO: ZOU ZHENG/XINHUA

CANADA’S Chief Public Health Officer Theresa Tam said Friday that the government had de-

ployed more than 99,000 doses of Imvamune vaccine to provinces and territories, with more than

50,000 people vaccinated as of 11 August.

Tam said in a statement that a special advisory committee on monkeypox response was set up much like what was done for COVID-19 over two years ago.

“To date, our discussions have focused on testing, working with community organizations to raise awareness on ways to limit spread of the virus, and deployment of the Imvamune vaccine and therapeutics,” Tam said. The Public Health Agency of Canada confirmed 1,059 cases of monkeypox in the country as of Friday.—Xinhua

99% of monkeypox cases in US occur in men: research

NEW data published in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report and gathered by the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) showed that 99 per cent of monkeypox cases in the United States are in males.

The report released on 5 August also showed that 94 per cent of those male infected patients reported male-to-male sexual or close intimate contact during the three weeks before symptom onset, and racial and ethnic minority groups appear to be disproportionately affected. Moreover, the data from the report, which was gathered from reported cases of the virus in the United States from 17 May to 22 July, showed that clinical presentations of some patients differed from typical monkeypox, with fewer persons experiencing prodrome and more experiencing genital rashes.

These epidemiologic details should guide treatment and vaccine protocols, the authors of the study said, adding “current findings indicate that community transmission of monkeypox is widespread and is disproportionately affecting gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men; this is consistent with data reported from other countries.”—Xinhua

ECONOMY WORLD

Siemens posts loss as energy spin-off struggles

GERMAN industrial conglomerate Siemens said on Thursday it had made a significant net loss as it counted the cost of struggles at its former energy unit.

Between April and June, Siemens recorded a net loss of €1.5 billion, after a mirror €1.5 billion profit in the same period last year.

The loss was due to a €2.7 billion devaluation of the group's "stake in Siemens Energy and Russia-related impacts totalling €0.6 billion", Siemens said in a statement.

Shares in Siemens Energy,

which was spun off from its parent in 2020, have fallen around 25 per cent since the start of the year.

Siemens Energy has had to contend with the struggles of its own wind-energy subsidiary, Siemens Gamesa, which has struggled to turn a profit despite surging demand for renewable energy.

Quarterly revenues at Siemens, which makes products ranging from trains to factory equipment, rose 11 per cent year-on-year to €17.9 billion, with pro-

gress seen across the board.

Its "digital industries" division, which includes factory automation, led the way with sales up 18 per cent to €4.9 billion.

The improvement came despite the turbulence caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, soaring inflation and persistent bottlenecks in supply chains that can be traced back to the coronavirus pandemic.

The Munich-based group had been able "to avoid larger disruptions due to supply chain risks", it said.—AFP



German Chancellor Olaf Scholz (right) with Siemens Energy CEO Christian Bruch near a Nord Stream 1 pipeline turbine. **PHOTO: SASCHA SCHUERMAN / AFP**

UK economy closes in on recession



Britain is "teetering on the edge of a recession" as inflation forces hard-pressed shoppers to tighten their belts. **PHOTO: AFP**

BRITAIN'S economy shrank in the second quarter, official data showed Friday, as the country heads towards recession under a new prime minister.

UK gross domestic product dropped 0.1 per cent in the April-June period after a rise of 0.8 per cent in the first quarter, the Office for National Statistics

said in a statement.

The Bank of England (BoE) expects the economy to enter a year-long recession by the end 2022 as Britons endure a cost-of-living crisis with inflation at its highest level in decades.

"With May's growth revised down a little and June showing a notable fall, overall the econ-

omy shrank slightly in the second quarter," said ONS director of economic statistics Darren Morgan.

"Health was the biggest reason the economy contracted as both the (Covid) test and trace and vaccine programmes were wound down, while many retailers also had a tough quarter."

Morgan said this was "partially offset by growth in hotels, bars, hairdressers and outdoor events across the quarter, partly as a result of people celebrating the Platinum Jubilee" that marked Queen Elizabeth II's 70 years on the throne.

The ONS added that the UK economy slumped 0.6 per cent in June.

Following Friday's data, finance minister Nadhim Zahawi said he was "determined to work with the Bank of England to get inflation under control and grow the economy".—AFP

US gas prices fall below \$4 for first time since March

IT'S not too late for a road trip: The US average price of gasoline at the pump has finally fallen below \$4.00 a gallon, providing a bit of relief for Americans struck by massive inflation at almost every turn.

In the wake of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, prices

soared, pushing past \$5.00 for the first time in mid-June, according to the American Automobile Association (AAA).

Falling global oil prices in recent weeks, however, caused that average to fall to \$3.99 Thursday — the first time below \$4.00 since early March.

The White House cheered the encouraging news. "This is providing much needed breathing room for families across the country," said Cecilia Rouse, head of the Council of Economic Advisors, while noting that "we have more work to do to bring inflation down."—AFP

Ethiopia says completes third filling of Nile mega-dam

ETHIOPIA said Friday it has completed the third filling of its mega-dam on the Blue Nile, a development that could raise further tensions with downstream neighbours Egypt and Sudan.

The announcement comes a day after Ethiopia said it had launched electricity production from the second turbine at the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) which lies in the west of the country.

"Today as you see behind me, the third filling is complete," Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said in images shown on state television from the dam site.

"The Nile is a gift of God given to us for Ethiopians to make use of it."

The massive \$4.2 billion dam, set to be the largest hydro-electric scheme in Africa,

has been at the centre of a regional dispute ever since Ethiopia broke ground on the project in 2011.

There is still no agreement between Ethiopia and its downstream neighbours Egypt and Sudan about the GERD's operations despite talks held under the auspices of the African Union. Cairo and Khartoum view it as a threat because of their dependence on Nile waters, while Ethiopia deems it essential for the electrification and development of Africa's second most populous nation.

'Gifted nations'

Egypt, which relies on the Nile for about 97 per cent of its irrigation and drinking water, last month protested to the UN Security Council about the third filling.—AFP



The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam has stoked regional tensions. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Japan to keep imported wheat price unchanged despite inflation

THE Japanese government plans to keep unchanged the average price at which it sells imported wheat to milling companies from October onward despite soaring inflation, an official with knowledge of the matter said Saturday. The plan is aimed at easing the burden on households suffering from higher prices of wheat products such as bread and noodles on the back of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Both countries are leading producers of wheat. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida is set to instruct officials to curb the wholesale price at a government task force to be held on Monday. The



The plan is aimed at easing the burden on households suffering from higher prices of wheat products such as bread and noodles on the back of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Nissin Food Products Co., Ltd. is a Japanese food company that specializes in the production and sale of convenience food and instant noodles. PHOTO: KYODO/FILE

price could rise by 20 per cent without government action, according to the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The government raised its selling price

of imported wheat by an average 17.3 per cent in April to 72,530 yen (\$540) per ton, the second-highest level since the current calculation methods were adopted in 2007, according

to the farm ministry.

The government revises the price twice a year -- in April and October -- based on the average price of wheat that the government imported in the past six months.

Japan, which depends on overseas producers for about 80 per cent of its domestic wheat consumption, imports the commodity in bulk as a country and then resells it to milling companies in order to ensure stable supply. Kishida, who reshuffled his Cabinet on Wednesday, has vowed to stem soaring prices of essential items as many consumers have decried the heavier financial burden.—Kyodo

Easyjet pilots strike in Spain

EASYJET'S Spanish pilots walked out on Friday, calling for the reinstatement of conditions they enjoyed before the coronavirus pandemic, two weeks after a strike by the low-cost carrier's cabin crew had resulted in a deal.

Coming at the height of the summer tourist season, the new Easyjet stoppages will add to the problems facing the sector.

Cabin crew at budget rival Ryanair have been staging 24-hour walkouts since June, which are likely to continue until January 2023, unions said.

The Easyjet pilots, for their part, are staging a first three-day strike from Friday at the airports of Barcelona, Malaga and the Mediterranean islands of Palma de Majorca and Minorca, the SEPLA union said.

Two more three-day walkouts are planned later in August.

"This is the only possible alternative for the pilots' representatives, after more than six months of negotiations, at which the company has rejected all proposals made," the union said. The airline cancelled eight flights on Friday, most of them from Barcelona, Spain's second-busiest airport. "During the worst months of the pandemic, we agreed to lower our salaries to guarantee not only jobs, but the survival of the company itself in Spain," the union said.—AFP

Albanian farmer feeds coffee to fields amid fertilizer crunch



Albanian farmer Alban Cakalli can't afford chemical-based fertilizers imported from abroad. PHOTO: AFP

WITH the pandemic and the Ukraine conflict sending fertilizer prices through the roof, Albanian farmer Alban Cakalli

has turned to coffee, one of the Balkan country's great loves, to nourish his fields.

The 38-year-old farm-

er owns only half a hectare in the town of Mamurras in northwestern Albania, but even still is unable to afford the chemical-based fertilizers imported from abroad.

As in other parts of the world, Albania's agricultural sector has been battered by rising costs, with fuel and fertilizer prices soaring after Russia, a major producer of both commodities, invaded Ukraine. To curb expenditures, Cakalli has turned to coffee grounds, a natural fertilizer with readily available stocks in

Albania, where drinking the caffeinated beverage remains a national pastime and cafes dot nearly every corner. On an average day, Cakalli says he is able to collect up to 40 kilogrammes of coffee grounds.

"The Albanians are passionate about coffee," he tells AFP from his farm. The process is time-consuming, requiring him to first collect the used beans before mixing the grounds with herbs and later composting the concoction for three months.—AFP

India's retail inflation eases to 6.71% in July

INDIA'S retail inflation eased to 6.71 per cent in July, showed data released by the ministry of statistics and program implementation (MoSPI) Friday.

"The inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in July is 6.71 per cent," the government data said. "It was 7.01 per

cent in June."

The food inflation also dropped to 6.75 per cent in July from 7.75 per cent in June, the data showed.

According to officials, the price data are collected from selected 1,114 urban markets and 1,181 villages covering all states through personal visits by field staff

of field operations division of the National Statistical Office (NSO), MoSPI on a weekly roster.

"During the month of July 2022, NSO collected prices from 99.7 per cent villages and 97.6 per cent urban markets while the market-wise prices reported therein were 89.5 per

cent for rural and 92.3 per cent for urban," the ministry said.

Reports said retail inflation in July is the lowest since March, but above the upper limit of the central banking institution — the Reserve Bank of India's target range for seven straight months.—Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V TRIESTE TRADER VOY.NO. (231W/232E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V TRIESTE TRADER VOY.NO. (231W/232E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14-8-2022 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.

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GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Taliban fighters swap arms for books as hundreds return to school

GUL Agha Jalali used to spend his nights planting bombs — hoping to target an Afghan government soldier or, better still, a foreign serviceman.

These days, the 23-year-old Taliban member is studying English and has enrolled in a computer science course in the capital, Kabul.

“When our country was occupied by infidels, we needed bombs, mortars and guns,” says Jalali, an employee at the Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation. Now there is a greater need for education, he told AFP.

Since the Taliban swept back to power in August last year, hundreds of fighters have returned to school — either on their own or pushed by their commanders.

The word “Taliban” actually means “students” in Arabic, and the hardline Islamist movement’s



Taliban member Gul Agha Jalali (L) is one of many fighters who have traded combat for the classroom following the group's return to power. **PHOTO: AHMAD SAHEL ARMAN /AFP**

name stems from the religious schools in southern Afghanistan it emerged from in the 1990s.

Most Taliban fighters were educated in these madrassas, where studies are largely limited to the Koran and other Islamic themes. Many conservative

Afghan clerics — particularly among the Taliban — are sceptical of more modern education, apart from subjects that can be applied practically, such as engineering or medicine.

“The world is evolving, we need technology and develop-

ment,” said Jalali, who planted bombs for five years but is now among a dozen Taliban studying computers at the transport ministry.

‘Motivated mujahideen’

The desire of fighters like Jalali to go back to school shows Afghans yearned for education, government spokesman Bilal Karimi said.

“Many motivated mujahideen who had not completed their studies reached out to educational institutions and are now studying their favourite courses,” he told AFP. But education is a hugely problematic issue in the country, with secondary school girls barred from classes since the Taliban returned to power — and no sign of them being allowed back despite promises from some in the leadership.—AFP

At least 11 killed in Montenegro shooting

A shooter killed at least 11 people including two children in a mass shooting in Montenegro's central city of Cetinje on Friday, officials said, in one of the deadliest violent incidents to rock the Adriatic nation.

“Eleven people were killed in Cetinje today,” Andrijana Nastic, a government prosecutor helping oversee the investigation into the incident, told reporters, saying the shooter was among the dead. “Two children are among the victims,” she added.

A police officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity, also confirmed the figure to AFP.

The incident took place in Cetinje, around 36 kilometres (22 miles) west of the capital Podgorica, after the shooter was involved in a family dispute, according to public broadcaster RTCG.—AFP

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

5th caravan of grain ships departs from Ukraine

THE fifth caravan of ships carrying grain sailed from Ukraine's Black Sea ports on Friday under a deal to prevent a global food crisis, the Ukrainian Infrastructure Ministry said on Facebook.

The general cargo ship SORMOVSKIY 12 and the bulk carrier STAR LAURA together carrying 63,000 tonnes of food departed from the ports of Chor-

nomorsk and Pivdenny respectively, the ministry said.

Later in the day, two more ships, BRAVE COMMANDER and PETREL S, will arrive at Chornomorsk and Pivdenny ports for loading, the ministry said, adding that the ships will carry more than 40,000 tonnes of grain from Ukraine.

On 22 July, Ukraine and

Russia separately signed a deal with Türkiye and the United Nations in Istanbul to resume food and fertilizer shipments from Ukrainian ports to international markets via the Black Sea.

On 1 August, the first cargo vessel carrying grain left the Ukrainian port of Odesa for the port of Tripoli in Lebanon.—Xinhua



On 1 August, a ship carrying grain left the Ukrainian port of Odesa for Lebanon on Monday under a safe passage agreement. **PHOTO: AFP**

Ukrainian president proposes extending martial law, general mobilization



A general view in Kyiv. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

UKRAINIAN President Volodymyr Zelensky on Friday proposed to the parliament to prolong the current martial law and general mobilization in the country for another 90 days, the Interfax-Ukraine news agency reported.

Two separate drafts on extending the martial law and general mobilization have been submitted to the parliament for consideration, according to the parliament's website.—Xinhua

LATEST DEVELOPMENT

Here is the latest development in the war in Ukraine:

Iran seeks three more Khayyam satellites

Iran plans to commission three more versions of a satellite launched by Russia this week, prompting allegations of espionage by Moscow in Ukraine.

The Khayyam satellite was launched into orbit on Tuesday by a Soyuz 2.1b rocket from Moscow's Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. Before the launch, the Washington Post quoted anonymous Western intelligence officials as saying that Russia “plans to use the satellite for several months or more” to support its war effort in Ukraine before allowing Iran to take control. Iran's space agency on Sunday stressed that it would control the satellite “from day one”, in an apparent response to the Post's report.

SOURCE: AFP

Salman Rushdie on ventilator after stabbing

BRITISH author Salman Rushdie, whose writings have made him the target of Iranian death threats, was on a ventilator and could lose an eye after he was repeatedly stabbed at a literary event in New York state Friday.

Salman Rushdie, who spent years in hiding after an Iranian fatwa ordered his killing, was on a ventilator and could lose an eye following a stabbing attack at a literary event in New York state Friday.

The British author of "The Satanic Verses", which sparked fury among some Muslims who believed it was blasphemous, had to be airlifted to hospital for emergency surgery following the attack.

His agent said in a statement obtained by The New York Times that "the news is not good".

"Salman will likely lose

one eye; the nerves in his arm were severed; and his liver was stabbed and damaged," said agent Andrew Wylie, who added that Rushdie could not speak.

Carl LeVan, an American University politics professor attending the literary event, told AFP that the assailant had rushed onto the stage where Rushdie was seated and "stabbed him repeatedly and viciously".

Several people ran to the stage and took the suspect to the ground before a trooper present at the event arrested him. A doctor in the audience administered medical care until emergency first responders arrived. New York state police identified the suspected attacker as Hadi Matar, a 24-year-old from Fairfield, New Jersey, adding that he stabbed Rushdie in the neck as well as the abdomen.—AFP



Salman Rushdie is loaded onto a medical evacuation helicopter near the Chautauqua Institution after being stabbed in the neck while speaking on stage in New York State. PHOTO: AFP

Colombia to restart peace talks with ELN rebels

COLOMBIA'S government gave the green light on Friday to resume peace talks with the country's largest remaining rebel force, a key electoral promise that brought leftist President Gustavo Petro to power earlier this week.

Colombian government officials on Friday met with members of the National Liberation Army (ELN) in Havana, where they have been based since 2018, with Bogota saying it officially recognizes the "legitimacy of dialogue... in the search for peace".

"Both parties agree on the need to restart a dialogue process with facts that show Colombian society and the world that this will be real," High Commissioner for Peace Danilo Rueda said.

Present at the meeting were officials from Norway and Cuba, the guarantors of the talks, as well as representatives of the UN secretary-general and the Colombian Episcopal Conference.

Petro, a former guerilla who has vowed to pursue negotiations with the rebels, has said that he wants to strike new peace agreements with the ELN and other armed organizations, as well as end the government's "war on drugs", which he considers a failure.—AFP

'Top secret' documents seized in raid on Trump home

FBI agents seized records marked "top secret" during their search of former president Donald Trump's Florida estate, according to documents made public Friday in a probe that includes possible violations of the US Espionage Act.

The search warrant and related materials, unsealed by a Florida judge, showed agents carted away a significant number of items from the raid, which ignited a political firestorm in an already bitterly divided country. The warrant, which was personally approved by Attorney General Merrick Garland, authorized the FBI to search the "45 office" -- a reference to the 45th US president's private office at his Mar-a-Lago residence -- and storage rooms.

It directed them to seize documents and records "illegally possessed" in violation of three criminal statutes, including one falling under the Espionage Act, which makes it a crime to illegally obtain or retain national security information.



Former US president Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach, Florida. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Trump, who is weighing another White House run in 2024, vehemently denounced the FBI raid on his Florida home and claimed that all of the material confiscated during the search had been previously "declassified".

"They didn't need to 'seize' anything," he said in a statement on his Truth Social platform. "They could have had it anytime they wanted without playing politics and breaking into Mar-a-La-

go." Legal experts cautioned that while the warrant cites the Espionage Act, any potential charges remain unclear and Trump is not necessarily suspected of espionage.

"The Espionage Act encompasses a tonne of crimes that have nothing to do with 'spying', Bradley Moss, a national security lawyer, said on Twitter. "It's about unlawful storing of information relating to the national defense."—AFP

Mexico prepares to begin underground search for trapped miners

MEXICAN authorities said Friday they were able to enter the flooded coal mine, where 10 workers have been trapped for more than a week.

"We have all the prerequisites to go there today ... to search and rescue the miners," Laura Velazquez, the national civil defence coordinator, said during President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador's morning news briefing.

Velazquez said the rescue will be possible once "97 per cent of the water" has been extracted from the 50-metre-deep mine in the town of Agujita, in northern Coahuila state.

"The necessary resources for search and rescue have been prepared," she added.

The water level in one of the three wells that rescue workers will enter was lowered from a height of 30 metres (98 feet) to just 70 centimetres (27 inches)

the day after the accident that flooded the mine defenses, Minister Luis said Cresencio Sandoval.

The other two wells still have 3.9 and 4.7 metres of water.

Authorities believe 1.5 metres is an acceptable water level to gain access to the roughly

constructed El Pinabete mine.

"Definitely we will keep pumping... The process is slow but we don't want to take any risks," added Velazquez.

There have been no signs of life from the 10 miners trapped inside since the 3 August accident.—AFP



Friends and relatives hold a candlelit vigil for the trapped miners. PHOTO: AFP



GLOBAL AFFAIRS

'Top secret' documents seized in raid on Trump home
PAGE-15



SPORT



Shan United striker (red) tries for a header during their Myanmar National League Week 8 match against Ayeyawady United at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 13 August 2022. **PHOTO: MNL**

Defending Champion Shan United wins eight games in row in MNL

THE first day of Week 8 of the 2022 Myanmar National League continued yesterday at the Thuwunna Stadium.

The current champion Shan United team beat the Ayeyawady team with one goal to nil and won eight games in a row.

Shan United won this match with a single goal by winger Nanda Kyaw.

The Ayeyawady team tried

to get points in this match, but they suffered a defeat, and the difference in points with Shan United has widened.

Both teams use their key players from the beginning.

The Shan United team launched the attack from the start, while the Ayeyawady team played defensively.

The Shan United team scored the winning goal in the

33rd minute of the match, scored by winger Nanda Kyaw. In the second half, Ayeyawady tried to score an equalizing goal but the Shan United team played properly to block the defence to prevent them from scoring and won with the only goal scored in the first half.

Yangon United will take on Hanthawady United today. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

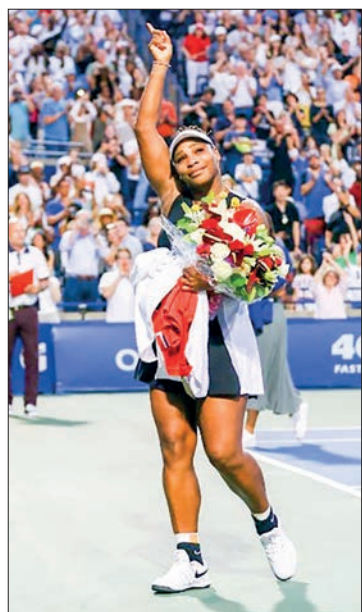
- (a) To enhance production based on agriculture and livestock through modern techniques and strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.
- (b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
- (c) To promote and support local businesses to create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.

3. Social affairs

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

Serena to face Raducanu in Cincinnati opener

SERENA Williams will face a challenging first-round clash with reigning US Open champion Emma Raducanu when the US tennis great's farewell



Serena Williams waves to the crowd as she leaves the court after losing to Belinda Bencic of Switzerland at the WTA Toronto Masters. **PHOTO: AFP**

tour continues at Cincinnati next week.

Williams, a 23-time Grand Slam champion, revealed this week that the "countdown has begun" to her retirement, with the 40-year-old expected to bid farewell after a final major campaign at the US Open starting later this month.

Williams won her first singles match in more than a year when she defeated Spain's Nuria Parrizas Diaz in the first round at Toronto last week.

That was before she revealed in an article in Vogue and on Instagram that she was "evolving away" from tennis.

In her first match after the announcement, Williams fell in straight sets to Switzerland's Tokyo Olympic gold medallist Belinda Bencic in the second round. Williams faces another tough path in Cincinnati, where she is a two-time champion.—AFP

Ancelotti 'surprised' by Kroos absence from Ballon d'Or nominees



Real Madrid's German midfielder Toni Kroos missed out on the Ballon d'Or nomination. **PHOTO: AFP**

REAL Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti on Saturday said he was surprised that German midfielder Toni Kroos did not feature on the list of 30 finalists for the Ballon d'Or.

Five members of the Champions League winning side were nominated on Friday in the shape

of Thibault Courtois, Casemiro, Luka Modric, Vinicius Junior and favourite Karim Benzema. New signing Antonio Rudiger is also on the list but there was no room for the German midfielder Kroos.

"It surprises me a bit, because Kroos had a fantastic season... But it's true that it could

be a problem if we named all the Real Madrid players, I can understand that," quipped Ancelotti in a press conference ahead of Madrid's Liga opener at Almeria on Sunday.

"But (Federico) Valverde, (Eder) Militao, (David) Alaba... all deserve to be there.

"All of them had a fantastic season. I'm not talking about winning the Ballon d'Or, but they deserve to be on the list."

Ancelotti was particularly pleased with the inclusion of Brazilian forward Vinicius on the 30-strong list of nominees.

"He scored the winning goal in our 14th Champions League, he had an incredible season," said the Italian.

"He doesn't care if he finishes fourth or second. For the players, only victory matters. He will do better in the future. But unfortunately for Vini, this season, we already have the winner with us."—AFP