

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Sunday, 22 May 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.

Government's Peace Talks Team meets RCSS Chairman-led delegation



Peace talks between the government's Peace Talks Team and the RCSS (SSA) delegation led by its chair in progress in Nay Pyi Taw on 21 May 2022.

THE Peace Talks Team of the government and the delegation led by the chairman of the Restoration Council of Shan State-RCSS (SSA) held discussions in Nay Pyi Taw

yesterday. SAC Member National Solidarity and Peace Negotiation Committee Chairman Union Minister at the Government Office (1) Lt-Gen Yar Pyae,

SAC Member Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun, NSPNC Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naung, RCSS Chairman General Yawd Serk, Secretary (1) Sao Sai Ngin and Central Executive Committee

Member Sao Saung Han. During the meeting, Peace Talks Team Leader Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and RCSS Chairman General Yawd Serk delivered greeting speeches and the par-

ticipants discussed peace and development related matters. They adjourned the first-day meeting. The discussion will be continued on 22 May.—MNA

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

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

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

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

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

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

State Administration Council
Information Team

Athinkayar brick temple in Sagu becomes tourist attraction

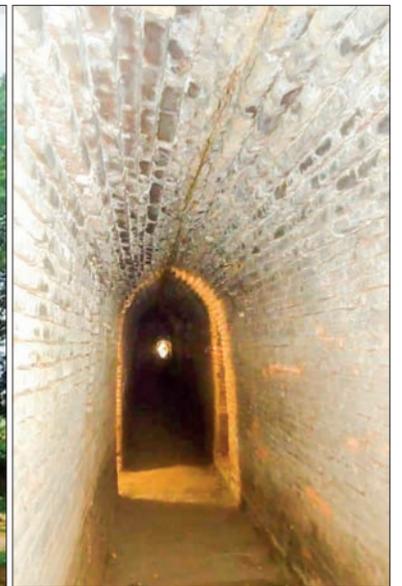
AMONG the monasteries with ancient artefacts in Sagu, Minbu District, Magway Region, such as Hmankin Yotesone Monastery, Thonehtet Yotesone Monastery, and Kan Oo Monastery, Athinkayar brick temple (or) Pha-ha-ma-tite Oat Kyaung is a prominent monastery.

Athinkayar brick temple (or) Pha-ha-ma-tite Oat Kyaung is located in the compound of the Thonehtet Yotesone Monastery and is hundreds-year-old building. The monastery is also known as Pitaka Monastery because Pha-ha-ma-kyaw Saydaw resided there with Pitaka manuscripts.

According to the inscriptions, it was built on 22 January 1393 AD by the Duke of Athinka-



The Athinkayar brick temple in Sagu, Magway Region.



yar, brother-in-law of King Saw Kae. This 77-feet long and 55-feet wide monastery has a unique design and craftsmanship of ancient masonry and is now attracting tourists from all over the world. — Zeya Htet (Minbu)/GNLM

Rare Myanmar golden deer protected in Shwesettaw Sanctuary



THE Myanmar golden deer, a rare species, is being conserved in the Shwesettaw Sanctuary in Minbu (Sagu) Township, Minbu District, Magway Region, according to the Board of Trustees of the Shwesettaw Pagoda.

The Department of Forest has been keeping the golden deer in the Shwesettaw Sanctuary for the past 10 years and now there are 15 males and 30 females, each of which has to be fed K36,000 per day at a cost

of K800 per head. Two workers are assigned to feed and care for the deer.

“Star tortoises and golden deer are among the world's rarest species. Our Myanmar golden deer are native to Myanmar and are extremely rare. We have to take good care of the golden deer cubs,” said U Myint Htay, secretary of the Shwesettaw Pagoda Board of Trustees. — Zeya Htet (Min Bu)/GNLM

Myanmar's golden deer are seen in the Shwesettaw Sanctuary in Minbu (Sagu) Township.

Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

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

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

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

SAC Member Mahn Nyein Maung opens new school buildings in Pantanaw Township

THE opening ceremony of a new two-storey school building of No (1) B.E.H.S in Pantanaw Township of Ayeyawady Region was organized yesterday.

During the event, State Administration Council Member Mahn Nyein Maung, Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Tin Maung Win, and Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Aung Aung cut the ribbon and sprinkled scented water on the signboard.

Then, SAC Member Mahn Nyein Maung said words of thanks on behalf of SAC urging to make efforts for peaceful learning of students, teach



The SAC Member and dignitaries cut the ceremonial ribbon to open a new school building in Pantanaw Township yesterday.

students with kindness and good will and cooperate in producing smart students. Region Chief Minister briefed on the opening of the new school building and activ-

ities for the education sector and school welfare members expressed words of thanks to the government on behalf of residents and students.

The SAC member, Region Chief Minister and Commander also attended the opening ceremonies of a new one-storey school building of the basic primary school in Daukgyi Kwatthit and another new one-storey school building of the basic high school in Asugyi Village.

After the ceremonies, they met with the departmental officials, town elders and residents. — MNA

Support and understanding of ASEAN countries are essential for Myanmar's political and economic growth: MIFER Union Minister

THE support and understanding of ASEAN countries are important for the political and economic development of Myanmar, said Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations during the ASEAN Economic Ministers' Special Meeting held in Indonesia on 17 and 18 May.

Similarly, the Union Minister said the delays in the economy of world countries including the unexpected Russia-Ukraine conflict have a large impact on the economic sectors of ASEAN countries while making efforts to revive the ASEAN economy in the post COVID period. Myanmar also faced such economic impacts as member countries and the government arranges proper measures for the political



The MIFER Union Minister meets the Indonesian Trade Minister in Bali, Indonesia.

challenges and economy. The government also make preparations to hold elections in 2023 according to the Constitution. Therefore, the ASEAN countries should understand the situation

in Myanmar and provides support. Myanmar is working in the economic pillar of ASEAN and also in regional economic integration.

The ministers at the special

meeting exchanged views on initial works of ASEAN projects, ASEAN economic integration, recovery plans for the economy in the post-COVID-19 period and other economic-related matters.

The Union minister met Indonesian Trade Minister Mr Muhammad Lutfi and discussed the ease in the export sector of Indonesia for the normal import of palm oil from Indonesia to Myanmar, collaboration in regional inclusive economic cooperation and agricultural product export of Myanmar.

The Union minister also met Cambodian Commerce Minister Mr Pan Sorasak and Thai Commerce Vice-Minister Mr Samsem Samalapa.

The Economic Ministers of ASEAN countries, ASEAN superior officials, representatives and ASEAN Secretary-General joined the ASEAN Economic Ministers' Special Meeting. —Htun Htun / GNLM

16 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 21 May, total figure rises to 613,219

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 613,219 after 16 new cases were reported on 21 May 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 592,174 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll stands at 19,434 without more casualties.—MNA

MoI donates cash to Mingala Youths Development Parahita School in Twantay Township, inspects MRTV's live broadcasting programme

THE Ministry of Information donated cash for lunch, books and journals for the students of Mingala Youths Development Parahita School in Twantay Township of Yangon Region yesterday.

First, Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn, Yangon Region Advocate-General U Htay Aung and party arrived at the Parahita school and took Five Precepts from Sayadaw Bhaddanta Ardisa Vumsa. They donated to the Sayadaws and offered day meals to Sayadaws and provided lunch for the trainees.

Then, the Union minister and the advocate-general comforted trainees of the Parahita school. They donated K1 million for lunch, K500,000 for the Parahita school and journals published by Sarpay Beikman for trainees.

Then, MRTV artistes and invited performers entertained them.

The Mingala Parahita School was established on 28 May 1999 and the 3rd level Parahita School is recognized by the Social Welfare Department. It has 100 children – 22



The MoI Union Minister and the Yangon Region advocate-general comfort the trainees at the Mingala Youths Development Parahita School in Twantay Township yesterday.

infants, 29 primary school students, 29 middle school students, 15 high school students and five university students.

The Union minister also inspected the live broadcasting of the Friday Night Live Show at MRTV on Pyay Road of Yangon on Friday and cordially greeted the artistes, producers and journalists.

When he met them, he instructed them to make efforts to entertain the public to keep their mind active and work together to develop in respective fields as the arts become broader. —MNA



Efforts needed for digital banking system: Nay Pyi Taw Council Chair



EFFORTS should be made to transform the banking industry into a digital banking

system in line with the modern technology trend, said Dr Maung Maung Naing, Chair-

man of the Nay Pyi Taw Council Mayor Patron of the Nay Pyi Taw Development Bank

Board of Directors during the annual meeting of Nay Pyi Taw Development Bank for 2020-2021 yesterday.

The main drive of a country is the economy and the banks are one of the main drives of the economy and so it should conduct banking operations following the directives of the Central Bank of Myanmar constantly, he said.

The Nay Pyi Taw Development Bank offers services for current accounts, saving deposit accounts, fixed deposit accounts, foreign currency exchange, safe deposit lockers, bank guarantees, payment orders, remittances and mobile

banking payments.

Nay Pyi Taw Development Bank was established formerly at No (25/26), Yaza Thingaha Road, near Ingyin Pan Roundabout, Ottarathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw on 28 February 2013 according to the licence number (Ma Bha Ba/ P-29/(2) 2013) of the Central Bank of Myanmar. Then, Bank's Head Office was moved to No (A-09), Thiri Kyaw Zwa Street, Thiri Yadana Shopping Complex, Zabuthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw on 15 February 2014. On 17 February 2014, all activities of the Head Office and Branches of the Bank started operations. — Htun Htun/GNLM

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Two fuel oil tankers docked, four on way to Thilawa ports

TWO tanker ships carrying more than 30,000 tonnes of fuel oil docked at the jetty, according to the Myanmar Petroleum Trade Association on 21 May.

The association posted on its social network that oil tankers MT Yu Hai which carried 17,200 tonnes and MT Aberlour which carried 20,000 tonnes docked at the jetty on 21 May.

It also announced that the oil tankers enter the country successively despite the rumours that there are fuel shortages in the country on 19 May.

“Some stations stick notices that they do not sell 95 Octane. During the SAC press conference, officials said the

country has adequate fuel. But in reality, there is a fuel shortage at stations. Now, the association says like that and so we get relief whatever the situation is,” said Ko Naing Win from Hlinethaya Township.

The price of 92 Octane reached K2,200 and the stations stopped selling as they faced shortages. The prices of fuel on 21 May were K2,210 per litre for 92, K2,325 per litre for 95, 2,180 per litre for premium diesel and K2,150 per litre for diesel.

On 19 May, MT Beluga Pacific with 16,400 tonnes of fuel, MT Yu Hai with 17,200 tonnes, MT Yu Dong with 18,200 tonnes



Fuel oil is unloaded from a tanker ship berthed at Thilawa Port. PHOTO: MPTA

and MT Aberlour with 20,000 tonnes docked at the ports. Another four unloaded vessels arrive at the mouth of the river, according to the statement of the association. — TWA/GNLM

No (1) Pyay Road upgrade work completed 100%



THE upgrade work on No (1) Pyay Road is now cent per cent complete, according to Yangon City Development Committee.

The No (1) Pyay Road, Yangon’s economic centre, is paved into double-layer nylon tar road from the City Golf Course signboard to the end of the Htaukkyant junction and green landscape projects are also being conducted on the vacant lands on both sides of the roads using 2020 budget.

The nylon tar road paving processes are now implemented at the Htaukkyant junction from Bo Chan Lawpita substation in Mingaladon Township and will complete soon.

The upgrade works were implemented later in May 2021 and the internal roads were expanded to 72

feet while 74 feet from Bo Chan of Mingaladon Township to Htaukkyant junction. Moreover, it also expanded a further 5 feet on the left and right sides of the road for the slow-moving vehicles and also painted the lines on the completed tar road in a timely manner.

“They repaired the road from Pyay Road, golf courses ... airport and it is now in Mingaladon. They paved another layer of the tar road. They plant grasses on both sides of the road in Sawbwagyigon. It is good to upgrade the main roads,” said Ko Thein Htike from Nanthagon Ward.

Only the tar roads were paved previously, and the current government grows green grass on both sides of the road, implements landscape and maintains the drainage system. —TWA/GNLM

Failing to stop at designated bus stops becomes highest among traffic rule violations

YANGON Region Traffic Police said failing to stop at the designated bus stops is the highest traffic-rule violation in the region.

The Traffic Police supervise the vehicles to facilitate the transportation daily. In April, they took action against 1,599 vehicles – 37 for not stop-

ping at the bus stops, 336 for not wearing seat belts and 144 for driving without licences. There were 86 traffic accidents that resulted in 43 deaths and 96 injuries.

The people should follow the traffic rules and regulations and can report to police on Viber-09-777436232 and 09-

777436233 with the photos of reckless vehicles including the locations.

The Yangon Region Traffic Police announced Viber phone numbers for the people to follow the traffic rules and to be able to report the reckless drivers to the police. —TWA/GNLM

41 gas filling stations in Yangon open

THERE are 41 gas stations in Yangon and sell gas to about 24,000 CNG-fuelled vehicles daily.

Currently, the imported fuel prices are high and the government provides CNG to passengers’ buses and taxis powered by CNG.

A total of 46 gas filling outlets are open to buses and taxis that are fuelled by CNG.

About 14 million cubic feet of CNG gas are contributed to more

than 2,000 YBS buses and 24,000 CNG-powered vehicles including taxis daily. Officials cooperate with the Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation-YESC not to occur power outages at the gas stations.

“The buses mainly use CNG. When the fuel prices are high, the gas is K273 per kilogramme. But it cannot get everywhere like petrol. It can get at the designated places. If we buy for about

K5,000, we can drive half-day. We have to queue up at gas stations early morning,” said taxi driver Ko Htay Nyunt from Ahlon Township.

If the gas produced from Maubin, Nyaungdon and Aphyauk is not enough, the Zawtika offshore gas project will provide the needed gas, according to the Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise.

For power outages, the drivers have to wait at CNG filling stations the whole night.

“If there is power, a large volume of gas goes into the cylinder with pressures. If it goes with high pressures, we can drive for a long time. If the pressure is low, we cannot meet the target. We have to wait for three hours when there are 10 CNG buses before us. We queue up for one day and run operations another day,” said a YBS 6 driver.

The CNG filling stations in Yangon Region are open from 5 am to 7 pm daily. — TWA/GNLM



Compressed natural gas-CNG is being filled up at one of the CNG stations. PHOTO: MOEE

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 12,133 people from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, 5,809 people from twelve townships in Rakhine and Chin states, 177 people from Khanti Township in Sagaing Region and 19,777 people from seven districts in Mandalay Region, respectively.

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

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



Imported anti-Covid supplies are transported by a lorry to where necessary.

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

A total of 123,000 PPEs and 90.74 tonnes of masks were imported by 15 vehicles and 11 companies from 1 to 21 May.

Officials from relevant departments cooperate to facilitate and expedite standard operating procedures for the import process. It is reported that the Ministry of Commerce is coordinating with relevant departments to prevent COVID-19, and contact persons for enquiries can be reached through the ministry's Website – www.commerce.gov.mm.—MNA

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, utensils, electronics and vehicles seized

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

On 19 May, a Customs inspection team on duty at the Myanmar International Port

(Thilawa) conducted an inspection under the management of the Customs Department.

The action was taken under the Customs procedures for 13 vehicles (estimated value of K169,065,154) which were abandoned by the owner without the

expiration date of the import declaration (ID) and non-FDA-approved COVID-19 protective equipment including hand sanitizers and test kits (estimated value of K29,736,278).

Similarly, the Customs Inspection Team on duty at the Myanmar Industrial Port Container Terminal conducted inspections under the management of the Customs Department.

Illegal construction lenses (estimated value of K14,210,812) were seized on 19 May and electronics and utensils (approximately K34,394,800) which were not included in the import declaration ID were also seized on 20 May.

Similarly, a joint inspection team led by the Bago Region Forest Department, under the management of the Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force, conducted inspections in Bago District and 7.072 tonnes of illegal timbers (estimated value of K3,758,032) were seized on 21 May. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, 18 arrests (estimated value of K251,165,076) were made on three consecutive days, according to the Steering Committee for Combating Illegal Trade. — MNA



Seized item at the Myanmar Industrial Port Terminal.

Heroin seized in Muse, Bhamo townships



Three arrestees are pictured along with seized heroin and a Toyota Wish car.

HEROIN was seized this week in Bhamo and Muse townships, according to the police force.

A joint team of anti-narcotics police stopped and searched a motorcycle driven by Ye Yint Ko Ko (alias) Ko Ye, and followed by Mazin Mar Oo (alias) Zin Mar on the Bhamo-Mansi Road, Bhamo Township at 5:50 pm on 20 May.

During the inspection, 0.099 kilogramme of heroin and K100,000 were seized from the vehicle.

According to the investigation, further 0.099 kilogramme of heroin and K100,000 were seized from Tun

Khin (alias) Khar Li at Paukgon Ward, Bhamo Township and K100,000 and one motorcycle were also seized from Ma Sabei Win (alias) Sabei and Ma Thida Cho on the same day.

Similarly, a joint team of security forces stopped and searched a Toyota Wish vehicle driven by Moe Lin Oo (alias) Moe Lay and Lin Lin Aung (alias) Win Htike Aung (alias) Kywel Gyi and Yan Nang Soe (alias) Kalar onboard and seized 2.232 kilogrammes of heroin.

They were prosecuted under the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, according to the police force.—MNA

Warning bells start ringing

By Kaung Aung

A person can regard the state of being near or far from them. Sometimes, we can feel closeness although it is away from us. Otherwise, we can feel remoteness despite the proximity in place. At present, a warning bell starts ringing from a remote place. However, people who are conscious of this bell will hear the sound. Those who are not aware of it will not notice the sound.

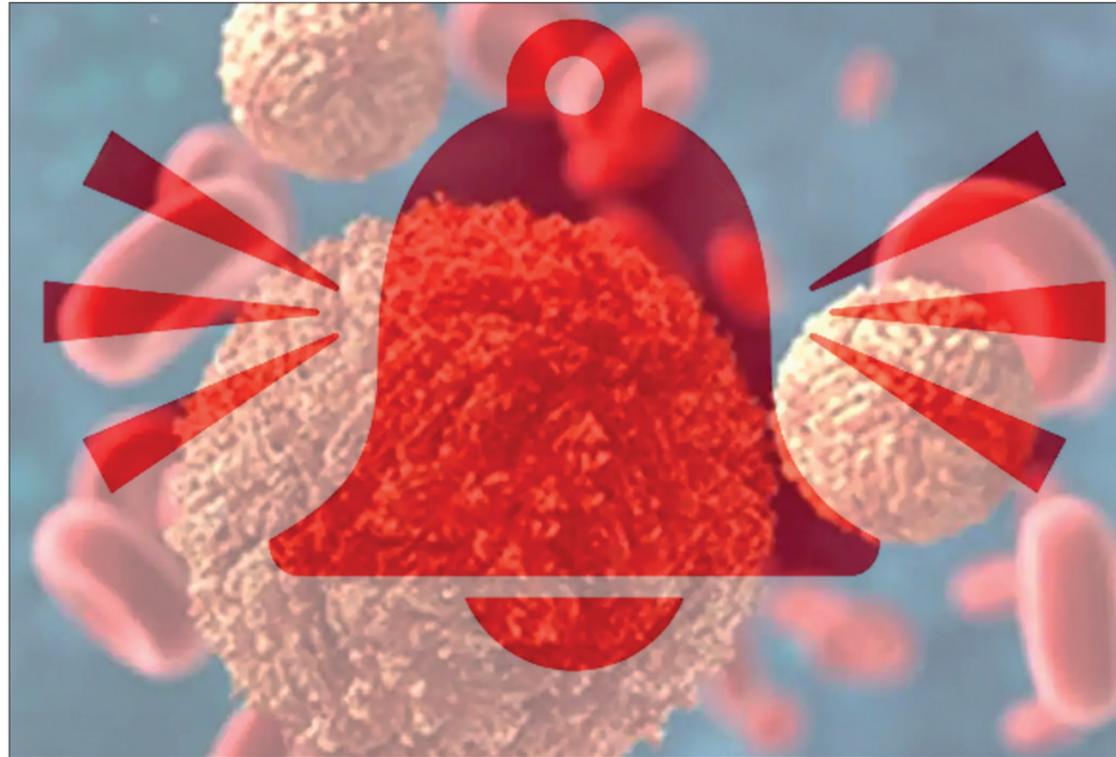
Warning bell or danger signal

It is a step towards the global pandemic. A new wave of COVID-19 infection (The BA.4 and BA.5 Omicron sub-variants) threatens to start spreading in the world's countries. KBS World News reported that South Korea discovered its first BA.4 and BA.5 strains detected in the tourists from South Africa, according to the Korean Centres for Disease Control. Both the two omicron sub-variants are rapidly transmissible but it appears to be very much like the original strain. There is a total of 19 cases in South Africa, with 13 cases of the new BA.2.12.1 variant. Two of them are locally infected. Moreover, Omicron XQ, XE and XM recombinant variants are also infected in eight people.

Before I thought South Korea is still away from us, BA. 4 and BA. 4 cases were found in three people in Singapore, and the Ministry of Health of Singapore released a piece of news. This is why we should make careful consideration and the new variants are fuelling an uptick worldwide. I want to know World Health Organization's declaration on the virus concerns and I just pray for the last variants to be less severe. Nonetheless...

Concerns about new omicron variants

WHO announced that those sub-variants are concerning to experts due to mutations which might help them evade the immune system even in people who have been vaccinated or have been previously



infected. The global excess mortality associated with the COVID-19 is estimated at 15 million in 2011-2012, according to WHO's May report. COVID control condition is still out of hand. The research and control conditions are declining. WHO said more research and observations are required to reduce the spread of the virus. Although the COVID-19 cases are dropping worldwide, people must stay aware of the latest COVID information.

Spreading coronavirus worldwide

KCNA Watch reported that there are 1.7 million infected people in North Korea in April. New cases of 230,000 were detected on 18 May. The number of deaths related to COVID-19 in North Korea is 62.

Shanghai achieved Zero COVID status but 2.5 million urban people are battling with strict rules and nearly four million are under strict lockdown. Similarly, the coronavirus resurgence in the capital city Beijing made people work from home. And people are taking tests every day.

Omicron sub-variants were firstly traced in the US and discovered in South Africa. There were nearly 4,000 new cases per day in South Africa. The server state is not found with the sub-variants BA. 1 and BA. 2 cases. However, BA. 4 and BA. 5 strains are

concerning.

Prevention and precaution measures to be taken

As per WHO's analysis, the vaccination is the best response to the sub-variants BA.4 and BA.5. The vaccine cannot protect people from variants but it can help reduce the severity. Most importantly, people must wear the N95 mask systematically in public places.

Myanmar people are either too poorly educated or weak conscious. Six out of ten people do not wear the mask on public buses. The vaccination has not covered 100 per cent. Some vaccinated people fail to receive a second dose or booster. I should remind them of the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 third wave in

Myanmar. It is dangerously threatening us.

Uninvited guest

The hot season is going to end and the monsoon season is ready to kick off. Along with the seasonal flu, the COVID virus condition might worse during the monsoon season.

"WHO recommended influenza vaccine. The spread of seasonal flu and risks can be higher this year. People, especially the elders and persons with chronic diseases are vulnerable to twindemic, a mixture of severe seasonal flu and COVID infection in the same person at the same time," said a doctor working at Vichaivej Hospital (Myanmar headquarter).

The government is open

for tourists in line with the COVID-19 protocols. However, there might be illegal entry from the border. Therefore, the populated cities have a high risk of infection. People cannot maintain social distancing while running for their life. Myanmar is found too weak in compliance with COVID protocols. What if twindemic happens in our country?

Prevention is the best medicine

Myanmar is stepping up the COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities in a momentum. Public participation plays a pivotal role in prevention and control measures. People must strictly adhere to the rules and regulations issued by the Ministry of Health. People must join the essential COVID-19 vaccination, the Ministry of Health announced that through 8 p.m. news on 18 May.

As per the saying "Prevention is better than cure", (1) receiving all doses including boosters, (2) wearing the protective mask systematically, (3) avoiding the closed spaces, (4) washing hands frequently, (6) maintaining six feet apart and (6) sanitizing the goods are required.

If all citizens comply with mandatory COVID-19 rules issued by the Ministry of Health, there is no need to worry about the coming new waves of the coronavirus.

Translated.



Botswana, South Africa deepens probe into new Omicron sub-variant. PHOTO: WHO

OPINION BOOKRACK

ARTICLE Weather Report

Rebuild friendliness with the environment to relieve disaster risks

THE monsoon reaches the doorstep of the home of Myanmar. Wither trees facing high temperature of summer are hoping the raindrops of monsoon to be able to thrive for contributing to greening the environment.

A Myanmar saying goes: A shade of tree gives shelter to flocks of birds. It is just a metaphor for the important role of trees. If there are a large number of trees, these will be shelters for flocks of birds in a real situation. So also, these trees, as well as forests, will sustain the living world with the supply of food, clothing and shelter which are the most basic needs for all living beings.

It is necessary to constantly sustain the world of living beings, biodiversity and ecosystem. Animals, microorganisms and human beings are interrelated with one another in the ecosystem. Everybody is responsible for the further improvement of the world they reside. In so doing, they all need to plant trees to the creation of favourable climatic conditions for the environment.

Reciprocally, fine weather much depends on forests where biodiversity takes position. It is because forests and trees can adjust the weather of the environment. If not, all living beings may face deforestation, extinction of biodiversity species, the outbreak of forest fire, damage to forest plantations, falling of pests, loss of habitation or wildlife, degeneration of plant species, and irregularity of nature of plants and wildlife.

People from various countries of the world have been encountering natural disasters such as dryness, bad weather, forest fire, flooding and inundation, and the outbreak of strange diseases for many years. Moreover, global warming melts glaciers from the poles, leaving catastrophes which harm societies of the living beings. Indeed, the global warm was triggered by the loss of forest areas logged to reclaim the urban areas for the residence of a growing number of the people and expand the industrial areas and log the plants to extract natural resources.

In realization of the chains of climatic conditions, it is necessary to nurture trees to develop the forests. If so, the weather will be fine. Truly, the forests can remedy the air pollution to be better in the atmosphere, especially by cleaning the carbon dioxide emission from industries. Now, human beings gradually become victims of environmental degradation.

As such, all human beings need to rebuild friendliness with the environment by growing trees and mitigating various pollutions in the society to be free from situations of encountering the impacts of natural disasters.

The Noble Value of Peace and Tranquillity

By Sann Ni Lar Winn

WE ALL together always want to get the noble value of peace and tranquillity, as opposed to terrorism and anarchism. In a democratic society, most of the people are living under the rule of law.

According to the teaching of political science, there are generally seven kinds of terrorism as the following: -

- (1) Political Terrorism
- (2) Social Revolutionary Terrorism
- (3) Nationalist Separatist Terrorism
- (4) Religious Extremist

Terrorism
(5) Religious Fundamentalist Terrorism
(6) Right-wing Terrorism (Democratic Dictatorship)
(7) Criminal Terrorism

In Myanmar, after gaining independence many innocent people were faced by the insurgents in accord with cruelties.

I want to describe who was named "Angulimala" became a noble monk from being a terrorist because of Buddha's teaching. On account of Angulimala's teacher's wrong guidance, he

became a cruellest bandit, merciless and even bent on killing. He spared none that happened to cross his path, men, women, the aged, and even infants. From each of his victims, he cut a finger and tied it with a long string, which he wore around his neck.

For years "Angulimala" terrorized the countryside and townships. Because of his intelligence and daring expertise, he was never caught. So, King "Pasenadi" finally ordered a detachment of soldiers to capture him dead or alive. At last, when he listened to Buddha's teaching (Dhamma), he was free from being a terrorist and sinner. Then

he became a noble monk in the Buddhist religion.

Free and fair elections are the basic backbone of a democratic society. The primary cause of Myanmar's political situation is unfair, unlawful matters and electoral fraud in the 2020 general elections. The previous ruling party government (NLD) tried to neglect the political crisis without solving it by peaceful and lawful means. Therefore, Myanmar's Tatmadaw took State's responsibilities in accord with the national and historical necessities of our mother country.

Meanwhile, it was regrettable that NLD extremist mem-

bers and terrorist groups called NUG, CRPH and PDF committed bomb attacks on and fired at the COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities. Moreover, terrorist groups such as NUG and CRPH on 7 September 2021 issued an announcement inciting the terror acts to deteriorate the peace and stability of the State. They are boosting murdering innocent people, blowing up mines in public places and attacking the security forces on the ground. All the international organizations need to know about these murders and atrocities over innocent people by the terrorists.

Today is a period when the Tatmadaw has taken the State responsibilities under the Constitution (2008) - the multiparty democracy and building of the Union based on democracy and federalism. Besides, the government on its part has expressed, "Emphasis is being placed primarily on two points in building the nation and the first point is to firmly implement the democracy in accordance with the aspirations of the people as the political vision, and the second point is to prioritize the prosperity of the nation and food sufficiency.

The government has openly declared that it would contin-

ue the implementation of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA for restoring the perpetual peace and that the door would always be opened for dialogues. The ethnic armed organizations need to faithfully and firmly walk along the NCA route to be able to contribute much to holding the free and fair multiparty democracy general election.

Today is a period when the Tatmadaw has taken State responsibilities in accord with the Constitution (2008) and the State Administration Council leads the country as the Tatmadaw and political parties strived for ne-

gotiations through various ways and means over the vote-rigging of NLD in the 2020 election but the mission failed. Since the time of taking State responsibilities, the State Administration Council has laid down and is implementing the five-point road map and nine objectives.

In conclusion, I urge the entire people to face the terrorists' challenges and terrorism with our national spirit and criminal law. Likewise, there have no peace and tranquillity, democracy also cannot stand itself.



Book Title - My late father Dr San Baw, an orthopaedic surgeon who developed an ivory hip replacement

Author - Dr Myint Zan

Publishing House - Duty Publishing

Publication Date - November 2021 (First Edition)

Price - K7,500

My late father Dr San Baw, an orthopaedic surgeon who developed an ivory hip replacement

BIOGRAPHY is the art of writing that is suitable for people of all ages or people engaged in any working environment. It's kind of a biography of Dr San Baw as the author Dr Myint Zan along with the experts portrayed the story of his late father from a different perspective. The book illustrates what kind of person Dr San Baw is to a certain extent.

Sayagyi Dr San Baw was recognized in the history of medicine as a person who pioneered ivory prostheses to replace fractured thighed bones. It's a historical milestone for Myanmar. The author also added the story of his late mother called Dr Myint Myint Khin, a professor at the University of Medicine (Mandalay) and a consultant of the World Health Organization.

This book will motivate the people who are exploring success in life and inspire the persons in the medical field. The well-known writer and

journalist Ludu Daw Amar wrote an article about U San Baw that U San Baw is a gifted person in research. Sayamagyi Daw Myint Myint Khin added how he is passionate about research from his daily life activities (planting and house building) to the medical aspect in a systematic way.

When the author was detained under Section 5 of the Emergency Provisions Act, his mother mourned that we have already lost your father. Nothing can be worse than that. Your father is a man of virtue. The author put this conversation in chapter 5 of the unhealthy relationship between Dr San Baw and U Ne Win who served as the chairman of the Burma Socialist Programme Party.

The book includes 28 Myanmar articles in Volume I and 26 English articles and a photo section with over 500 colourful pages in Volume II.



Book Title - Shining Stars

Authors - Various Authors

Publishing House - Aryonoo Publishing

Publication Date - December 2021 (First Edition)

Price - K4,000

Shining Stars

GREAT authors with personal history are not mediocrity. They cannot be put aside or discarded. They are not a person who falls by wayside and disappears. If people notice this fact, I am elated with this, an organizer Aung Shan Wine (Kyaikmaraw) noted in his preamble.

This book titled Shining Stars includes a memorable piece of writing for 13 authors who passed away during the COVID-19 global pandemic. The writers who are close to them developed works in remembering those late authors - Saya Ank Maung, Saya Pyawbwe Soe Myint Aung, Saya Maung Moe Thu, Saya Chit Maung, Saya Aung Chaint, Saya Thihe Tun Thet, Saya Nanda Moekyal, Saya Tin Ko Aung, Saya Win Thura, Saya Anawa Soe Moe, Saya Myo Ko Myo, Saya Min Soe Aung and Saya Naing Myo Tun.

An article dedicated to Saya Ank Maung started with a poem "A human being in life - I

shall not do anything injustice -Indulge yourself in pride -That is a lasting message I want to give -As a father's legacy in life - Ank Maung". Saya Ank Maung reflected the life experiences of the people and he stood together with them. He did not face just the sun and the moon but millions of people.

He could build himself on the belief of political culture and literature aspects in balance simultaneously. A writer of an article Hmawun Kyi Myat referred to Saya Ank Maung as a man of his virtue.

Similarly, the writers Hein Latt, Maung Khit Tun, Maung Thin Wai Lin Yang Tun, Nwe Oo Hlaing, Myint Oo Oo Myint, Nan Ei Ei Zar, Ye Khaung Me Maung, Maung Kyaw That (Bago), Aung Shan Wine (Kyaikmaraw), Kaung Kyaw (UOE) and Kalaya Nyein San also described the remaining late authors in their articles.



BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is vigorous over the Andaman Sea, South Bay and Eastcentral Bay of Bengal. Weather is a few cloud to partly cloudy elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 22 May 2022: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Sagaing Region and Kachin State, fairly widespread in Mandalay and Magway regions and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of regionally heavyfalls in Taninthayi Region and Kayin, Mon states and isolated heavyfalls in Nay Pyi Taw, Magway, Bago, Yangon, and Ayeyawady regions and Eastern Shan and Rakhine states. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squall with rough seas will be experienced in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach (40) mph. Squall with moderate to rough seas are likely at times elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (9-11) feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts and (7-9) feet off and along Rakhine Coast.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuations of thundery activities in the Central Myanmar areas.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22 May 2022: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22 May 2022: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22 May 2022: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

SCI/ENVIRON WORLD

Boeing's Starliner spaceship docks with ISS in high-stakes test mission



The spaceship made contact at 8:28 pm Eastern time (0028 GMT Saturday), a little over 24 hours after it blasted off from the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida on a mission to prove itself capable of providing safe rides for NASA astronauts. **PHOTO: NASA TV/AFP**

BOEING'S Starliner capsule docked with the International Space Station Friday, a major milestone in a high-stakes uncrewed test flight as the US aerospace giant seeks to restore its reputation following past failures.

The spaceship made contact at 8:28 pm Eastern time (0028 GMT Saturday), a little over 24 hours after it blasted off from the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida on a mission to prove itself capable of providing safe rides for NASA astronauts. "Starliner spacecraft completes its historic first docking to the International Space Station, opening a new avenue of access for crews to the orbiting laboratory," said an an-

nouncer. But the vessel missed the scheduled rendezvous time by more than an hour due to technical issues — including a problem that required ground control to retract its docking system then re-deploy it. Starliner also encountered some propulsion problems early on in its journey, with two thrusters responsible for placing it in a stable orbit failing, though officials insisted these were non-critical systems. One of 12 orbital maneuvering and attitude control (OMAC) thrusters located on Starliner's aft side shut off after one second, at which point a second thruster kicked in and took over, but also cut out after 25 seconds.—AFP

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Bear cubs rescued from wildlife trade in Viet Nam

TWO bear cubs are starting a new life in a sanctuary in Viet Nam after being rescued from the illegal wildlife trade, an animal welfare group said Friday.

The two sisters, named Be and Em, were confiscated by authorities from a man who admitted catching them in a cardamom field with a plan to sell them, the Four Paws organization said.

Viet Nam is a major hub for the illegal trade in wild animals, and bears are kept to drain the bile from their gall bladders for use in traditional medicine. The rescued cubs have been taken to a sanctuary in Viet Nam run by Four Paws, where they will be reared and spend the rest of their lives.—AFP

Key Iraq irrigation reservoir close to drying out



Iraqi children play on a boat grounded by the shrinking of Lake Hamrin — the reservoir once provided fish for the dinner table as well as water for irrigation. **PHOTO: AFP**

Iraq's Lake Hamrin, a once-vast reservoir northeast of Baghdad that is the sole source of water for irrigation across Diyala province, has nearly dried out, a senior official said Friday. Successive years of low rainfall and a sharp reduction in the flow of water down the Sirwan River from neighbouring Iran have reduced much of the lake to a dust bowl, the official told AFP. "There has been a sharp reduction in the water level — reserves currently stand at 130 million cubic metres against two billion cubic metres normally," said Aoun Dhiab, a senior adviser in the water ministry.—AFP

Mekong River sees higher water levels this year

THE Mekong River passing several countries in Southeast Asia has recorded higher water levels this year after four straight years of low flow and droughts.

Over the first four months of 2022, the river level was recorded at the highest in several years in part as a result of increased rainfall, the local daily Vientiane Times on Friday reported, citing data from the Mekong River Commission (MRC).

As a result, greater flows of sediment and nutrients should boost fish stocks, improve agriculture and benefit some 70 million people in riverine communities, according to the MRC. However, the water level rise "doesn't eliminate the risk of moderate drought," Winai Wangpimool, director of the MRC Technical Support Division, was quoted as saying. MRC figures showed water levels across the Lower Mekong River Basin remain below the 60-



Passengers get onto a ferry on the Mekong River in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 4 August 2021. **PHOTO: SOVANNARA/XINHUA**

year average from 1961 to 2021. Climate change has also posed a challenge, according to CEO of the MRC Secretariat, Anoulak Kittikhoun. Last year, the traditional wet season was shortened from five months to four, from June-October to July-October, and more precipitation this year also means the risk of torrential

rain and flash flooding, the Vientiane Times reported.

MRC meteorological indicators showed that from November 2021 to April 2022, the lower Mekong basin was not only wetter than in normal years, but the accumulated 2022 rainfall was above average by about 25 per cent.—Xinhua

Chinese researchers develop lever-inspired triboelectric nanogenerator

CHINESE researchers have proposed a new strategy for the lever-inspired triboelectric nanogenerator (TENG) with ultra-high output for pulse monitoring, according to the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS).

The strategy provides new

paths to improve the output signal, and develop a lever-inspired contact separation TENG by increasing the charge transfer speed, said the CAS. The study has been jointly carried out by teams from the Institute of Mechanics and Beijing Institute of

Nanoenergy and Nanosystems, both under the CAS.

TENGs can collect mechanical energy extensively through contact initiation and electrostatic induction, thus having great potential to alleviate the energy crisis.—Xinhua

PANDEMIC WORLD

Warsaw expects to get blocked EU funds within ‘months’

POLAND expressed confidence Thursday that it would soon receive the post-Covid recovery funds that the European Union had blocked because of its concerns over the rule of law there.

“In the coming months already, this money will start to flow from the EU budget,” Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki told reporters.

The EU member announced last week that it had concluded negotiations with Brussels over the blocked funds of around 35 billion euros (\$37 billion).

Brussels had refused to release them because of concerns that a controversial disciplinary mechanism for judges in Poland undermined judicial independence. Morawiecki said that while

the two sides have come to an agreement, the EU’s economic and financial affairs council still needs to give its greenlight and Warsaw must make legislative changes. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen for her part said in a letter Tuesday that Poland would have to prove that it had met the necessary conditions “before any disbursement under the Recovery and Resilience Facility could take place”.

Last week the Commission said that Poland would have to dismantle the contested Supreme Court disciplinary chamber, reform the disciplinary regime and allow judges affected by the disciplinary chamber’s decisions to be reinstated. —AFP



A mural paying tribute to the sacrifice of doctors, nurses and paramedics in the fight against the coronavirus is seen in Warsaw, Poland, 2 April 2020. PHOTO: AFP



Students of the Pyongyang Jang Chol Gu University of Commerce receives hand sanitizer before entering the campus, as part of preventative measures against Covid-19, in Pyongyang on 11 August 2021. PHOTO: KIM WON JIN/AFP

North Korea’s fever cases top 2 million amid COVID-19 spread

NORTH Korea on Friday reported more than 263,000 new fever cases, bringing the total number to over 2.24 million for the past three weeks, amid the spread of the novel coronavirus in the country of 25 million.

Two more deaths were reported in the 24 hours through 6 pm Thursday, with the accumulated number of deaths since late April standing at 65, according to the state-run Ko-

rean Central News Agency.

North Korea has not provided information on how many people have tested positive for the virus, as it is believed to have a limited number of COVID-19 testing kits.

The origin of the fever spreading around the country has not been identified.

More than 754,000 people were being treated and over 1.48 million people have recov-

ered, KCNA said.

On Thursday, South Korea’s spy agency cast doubt on whether the North’s recent daily reports truly reflect the number of people infected with the coronavirus.

The agency said that a considerable number of the fever cases that North Korea has reported have included patients with other infectious diseases such as typhoid.—Kyodo

NEWS IN BRIEF

US CDC recommends Pfizer COVID-19 booster for children aged 5-11

The US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on Thursday recommended a booster dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for children aged 5 to 11.

The CDC recommends children in this age group receive a booster shot five months after their initial Pfizer-BioNTech vaccination series. “Vaccination with a primary series among this age group has lagged behind other age groups, leaving them vulnerable to serious illness,” CDC Director Rochelle Walensky said in a statement. “With over 18 million doses administered in this age group, we know that these vaccines are safe, and we must continue to increase the number of children who are protected,” she said. The CDC also recommended those 12 and older who are immunocompromised and those 50 and older get a second booster dose at least four months after their first.

The recommendation came after the US Food and Drug Administration on Tuesday granted emergency use authorization for a booster dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for children aged 5 to 11. —Xinhua

South Korea reports 25,125 new COVID-19 cases



The health authorities believed that the daily caseload has been on the decline following the Omicron variant-driven resurgence. PHOTO: ANI

SOUTH Korea reported 25,125 new COVID-19 cases as of midnight Thursday compared to 24 hours ago, raising the total number of infections to 17,914,957, the health authorities said on Friday.

The daily caseload was down from 28,130 in the previous day and lower than 32,441 tallied a week ago, according to the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA). The health authorities believed that the daily caseload has been on the decline following the Omicron variant-driven resurgence, which may have peaked in the middle of March.— ANI

ECONOMY WORLD

China's foreign trade sees solid expansion in past decade: official

CHINA has seen notable expansion in foreign trade during the past decade amid the country's efforts to build an open economy, an official said Friday.

The total imports and exports of goods have climbed from 24.4 trillion yuan (about 3.6 trillion US dollars) in 2012 to 39.1 trillion yuan in 2021, further consolidating China's role as the world's largest goods trading country, Wang Lingjun, deputy head of the General Administration of Customs said at a press conference.

China has remained as the world's largest goods trading country for five consecutive years since 2017, Wang said.

In addition to the sustained rise in trade volume, the country has also seen improvements to the structure of foreign trade, with new drivers successively emerging, Wang said.



Vehicles to be shipped to Europe are seen at a port in east China's Shanghai, 20 October 2020. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

"China's foreign trade has shown greater competitiveness in international competition, played a bigger role in driving economic growth and built a stronger foundation for long-term sound development," the official said.

During the past decade, efforts have been made in streamlining administrative procedures at ports, supporting the building of opening-up platforms, and promoting the orderly development of new forms of foreign trade, Wang noted.—Xinhua

EU proposes "one-off lump sum" for farmers hit by rising costs

THE European Commission proposed on Friday to mitigate the impact of the Russia-Ukraine conflict on farmers and agri-food businesses in the European Union (EU) by allowing member states to pay them a "one-off lump sum". The aim is to ensure food security and price stability.

Small and medium enter-

prises (SMEs) specialized in agricultural products could also benefit from the measure.

"After the COVID-19 pandemic, they are now being heavily hit by the consequences of the (Russia-Ukraine conflict)," European Commissioner for Agriculture Janusz Wojciechowski said. "For some, survival is at

stake. With this measure ... we support them so they can keep producing the food the world needs, care for their land and provide for their families."

Farmers and agri-food businesses are facing cashflow problems as commodity prices have increased recently due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

"Such increases in prices, notably for energy, fertilizers and animal feed, are disrupting the agricultural sector and rural communities, leading to liquidity and cashflow problems for farmers and small rural businesses active in processing, marketing or development of agricultural products," the European Commission said in a press release published on Friday.

EU member states will have the option to use up to five per cent of their 2021-2022 budget from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), or 1.4 billion euros (1.48 billion US dollars), to support their farmers and agri-food SMEs.—Xinhua



Seasonal workers from Romania crop cucumbers at a farm in northeastern Germany. **PHOTO: AFP/DPA/PATRICK PLEUL**

NEWS IN Brief

Japan, US, 3 others walk out APEC trade meet in protest of Russia

REPRESENTATIVES of five economies including Japan and the United States walked out of a trade ministers' meeting from the Asia-Pacific region on Saturday, in protest against Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Japanese officials said.

The two-day meeting by 21 economies forming the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum opened in Bangkok on Saturday, with the promotion of trade and investment in the post-COVID-19 era high on the agenda.

The protest was carried out when Russia's Maksim Reshetnikov, economic development minister, was giving his remarks, according to the officials.

The three other nations are Australia, Canada and New Zealand—Kyodo

Afghanistan bans wheat export to meet local needs

THE Afghan caretaker government has banned wheat exports with immediate effect in a move to meet local needs, the government confirmed on Friday.

"Acting Finance Minister Mullah Hidayatullah Badri has directed all customs offices in the country to stop exporting wheat," it said in a statement, adding that the decision was made to prevent a shortage of wheat in the country.

More than 22 million out of the 35 million population in Afghanistan face acute food shortages.—Xinhua

Pakistan bans import of non-essential luxury products to stabilize economy

THE Pakistani government has imposed a complete ban on the import of more than three dozen non-essential luxury items as part of an emergency economic plan to stabilize the national economy.

On Thursday, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Maryam Aurangzeb said, "There is an emergency situation and Pakistanis will have to make sacrifices under the economic plan. This will have a quick impact on the country's foreign reserves."

Pakistan will have to reduce its dependency on imports to put the country on the path of economic stability and progress, she said, adding that the government has been working to introduce an export-oriented policy, which will benefit local industry and producers, and generate employment.—Xinhua

Sri Lanka to ban holding foreign currency notes over 10,000 USD

SRI LANKA will soon implement laws banning anyone from holding foreign currency notes over 10,000 US dollars, the central bank said on Friday.

Central Bank Governor Nandalal Weerasinghe told reporters that the law will be brought in to prevent the hoarding of foreign currency and draw them into the banking system. He said that people are hoarding foreign currency, expecting the Sri Lankan rupee to depreciate further. Weerasinghe said more than 35 per cent of total foreign currency dealings take place outside the banking system. He said that the Sri Lankan people need to have access to essential imports like fuel, gas and medicine without staying in queues, and for that foreign currency circulating in the country must be in the banking system.—Xinhua

China's massive UHV project ready for 2,000-km power transmission

THE construction of the Baihetan-Jiangsu 800-kilovolt ultra-high-voltage (UHV) direct current power transmission project was completed on Friday, according to State Grid Jiangsu Electric Power Co., Ltd.

The project, with its transmission line stretching about 2,080 kilometres, is expected to transmit clean hydropower from southwestern province of Sichuan to east China's economic powerhouse Jiangsu Province at the end of June, the company said.

The project will be put into full operation at the end of this year, with power transmission

capacity reaching eight million kW, the company added, noting that advanced technologies like drones and AI recognition have been applied to enhance efficiency.

The construction of the project started in December 2020 as part of China's west-to-east power transmission programme. Once operational, it will deliver more than 30 billion kWh of electricity annually, helping reduce carbon dioxide emissions by over 25 million tonnes every year.

The trend of green power transmission is set to continue as China steps up its capacity



Aerial photo taken on 27 June 2021 shows Baihetan hydropower station in southwest China. **PHOTO: XINHUA/JIANG WENYAO**

for clean and renewable power generation.

Multiple UHV power line

projects will be built in the northwestern and southwestern regions during the 2021-2025 pe-

riod. They are expected to have a capacity to transmit a total of 56 million kW of power.—Xinhua

Nissan, Mitsubishi Motors to launch electric minivehicle in Japan

NISSAN Motor Co. said Friday it will launch a new electric minivehicle co-developed with Mitsubishi Motors Corp. this summer as the two automakers aim to boost their share of the domestic market for popular lightweight cars.

Nissan and its partner Mitsubishi Motors jointly developed the new EV, to be sold under their respective brand names, to lower production costs and make a more affordable addition to their lineup of minivehicles, which offer tax advantages to consumers.

The minivehicles are unique to the Japanese market, accounting for about 40 per cent of autos registered in the country. They are limited to 3.4 metres in length, 1.48 metres in width and 2.0 metres in height. For gasoline engine minivehicles, their

maximum engine displacement is set at 660 cc.

The new model, to be sold by Nissan as the Sakura and by

Mitsubishi Motors as the eK X EV, will have a driving range of up to 180 kilometres, the two companies said.—Kyodo



Nissan Motor Co. President and CEO Makoto Uchida (L) and his Mitsubishi Motors Corp. counterpart Takao Kato pose for photos in the Okayama Prefecture city of Kurashiki, western Japan, on 20 May 2022, as they introduce their jointly developed new mini electric vehicle, to be launched as the Nissan Sakura and Mitsubishi Motors eK X EV. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Israeli firm hopes AI can curb drownings

AN Israeli city is testing whether an artificial intelligence programme that detects drowning threats can help save lives off its beaches. The programme, developed by a company called SightBit, uses information collected from surveillance cameras to determine who is in the water — an adult or child, for example

— if they are moving or limp, and the current's movement at that location. If a threat is determined, the programme sends an alert to a tablet held by the user — a lifeguard, in this case — with urgent instructions to act.

SightBit's chief executive Netanel Eliav told AFP that he developed the technology after

identifying a shortfall in how closed-circuit footage was being applied to boost safety in the water. The programme has been in use for more than a year in Ashdod, a city on Israel's Mediterranean coast that chose to deploy SightBit technology in an area at a distance from the nearest lifeguard.—AFP

India's revived domestic airline Jet Airways gets regulatory nod to resume operations

INDIA'S domestic airline Jet Airways will resume its operations after receiving its revalidated Air Operator Certificate (AOC) from the country's aviation regulator, the airline said in a press release Friday.

The airline was revived by the Jalan Kalrock Consortium under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code as per the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) approved resolution plan.

The grant of the AOC, valid for one year, was the final step involving several procedural checks for the airline's operational readiness, which got concluded with the airline successfully conducting a number of flights earlier this week with

officials from the aviation regulator on board.

The airline intends to recommence operations in the next quarter of July-September and will unveil aircraft and fleet plan, loyalty programme and other details in a phased manner in the next few weeks.

Before its operations were suspended in April 2019, Jet Airways established in 1993 flew to over 65 destinations in India and across the world with 124 narrow-body and wide-body aircraft. In March, India's domestic airline operators ferried 10.6 million passengers compared to 7.8 million in the same month a year ago, as per the aviation regulator's monthly statistics.—Xinhua

UK retail sales rebound but outlook gloomy: data

BRITISH retail sales unexpectedly rebounded in April, data showed Friday, but remain on a long-term downward trend amid a cost-of-living crisis that saw inflation rocket to a 40-year high.

Total sales volumes jumped 1.4 per cent last month after a 1.2-per cent drop in March, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said in a statement.

However, sales fell 0.3 per cent in the three months to April compared the previous three months, extending a downward trend in place since summer 2021 according to the ONS.—AFP

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

S Korea, US leaders meet for talks on N Korea, economy

THE first summit between South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and US President Joe Biden started on Saturday, with discussions centring on North Korea-related issues and economic cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.

Amid high tensions on the Korean Peninsula following several rounds of missile launches from North Korea, Yoon and Biden are expected to discuss ways to strengthen deterrence against Pyongyang amid speculation that preparations for another nuclear test have been completed.

The bilateral summit will

also likely touch on the rapid spread of COVID-19 in the North, according to a senior US official. Both South Korea and the United States have offered to extend humanitarian aid to the country.

The South Korean leader may also announce during his talks with Biden that Seoul plans to participate in the soon-to-be-launched Indo-Pacific economic framework, known as IPEF, to strengthen cooperation with Washington on building “resilient” global supply chains for semiconductors. The senior US official also said Biden will make

clear his support for improved ties between South Korea and Japan, which were strained over wartime issues during the administration of Yoon’s predecessor Moon Jae In.

“It is not in our interest for the relationship between the two of our closest and most political allies to not be strong,” the official said, but added that Biden will also make clear his understanding of the need to improve the South Korea-Japan ties “in a way that’s mutually acceptable and agreeable to both countries.” — Kyodo



Activists hold candles and placards as they protest against US President Joe Biden’s visit to South Korea in Seoul on 20 May 2022. After a three-day visit to South Korea beginning on that day, Biden will travel to Tokyo. **PHOTO: AFP**

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Russia declares victory in battle for Mariupol

RUSSIA has declared victory in its months-long operation to capture the strategic port of Mariupol after Ukraine ordered the last of its troops holed up in the city’s Azovstal steelworks to lay down their arms.

Moscow on Friday said the battle for the Azovstal steelworks — a symbol of Ukraine’s dogged resistance since Russian President Vladimir Putin launched the invasion on 24 February — was now over.

Russian defence ministry spokesman Igor Konashenko said 2,439 Ukrainian personnel had surrendered at the steelworks since 16 May, the final 500 on Friday.

Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu had informed Putin of “the end of the operation and the complete liberation of the (Azovstal) industrial complex and the city of Mariupol”,

Konashenko added.

“Nationalists trapped inside the plant are actively surrendering,” Shoigu said at a meeting of the Defence Ministry Board.

“Civilians held by Ukrainian nationalists have been evacuated from the plant, 177 people

have been rescued, including 85 women and 47 children,” he added. Shoigu noted that Russia’s armed forces were doing everything to prevent civilian deaths, adding that humanitarian corridors were operating permanently. — AFP



Moscow on Friday said the battle for the Azovstal steelworks — a symbol of Ukraine’s dogged resistance since Russian President Vladimir Putin launched the invasion on 24 February — was now over. **PHOTO: AFP**

Russia’s Pacific Fleet to receive new nuclear-powered submarines

RUSSIA’S Pacific Fleet will receive two nuclear submarines and one diesel-electric submarine in 2022, Fleet Commander Admiral Sergei Avakants said Friday.

The first nuclear strategic submarine of the Borei-A class, Knyaz Oleg, and the first nuclear submarine of the Yasen-M class,

Novosibirsk, will join the Pacific Fleet this year, Avakants was quoted by TASS as saying.

Knyaz Oleg will be equipped with Bulava ballistic missiles, which have a range of more than 8,000 kilometres. Novosibirsk is a multi-purpose nuclear submarine, armed with Kalibr and Onyx

cruise missiles.

Speaking on the occasion of the 291st anniversary of the Pacific Fleet, Avakants said that the fleet is also expecting the arrival of a silent diesel-electric submarine, Magadan, which is also equipped with Kalibr missiles. — AFP

Russia halts gas supplies to Finland

RUSSIA on Saturday halted providing natural gas to neighbouring Finland, which has angered Moscow by applying for NATO membership, after the Nordic country refused to pay supplier Gazprom in roubles.

Natural gas accounts for about eight per cent of Finland’s energy consumption and most of it comes from Russia.

Following Russia’s 24 February invasion of Ukraine, Moscow has asked clients from “unfriendly countries” — including EU member states — pay for gas in rubles, a way to sidestep Western financial sanctions against its central bank.

Finnish state-owned energy company Gasum said it would make up for the shortfall from other sources through the Balticconnector pipeline, which connects Finland to Estonia, and assured that filling stations would run normally.

“Natural gas supplies to Finland under Gasum’s supply contract have been cut off,” the company said in a statement.

Gasum said Friday that it had been informed by Gazprom Export, the exporting arm of Russian gas giant Gazprom, that the supply would stop on Saturday morning.

In April, Gazprom Export demanded that future payments in the supply contract be made in roubles instead of euros.

Gasum rejected the demand and announced on Tuesday it was taking the issue to arbitration.

Gazprom Export said it would defend its interests in court by any “means available”.

Gasum said it would be able to secure gas from other sources and that gas filling stations in the network area would continue “normal operation”. — AFP



A photo taken on 12 May 2022 shows pipes at the Gasum plant in Raikkola, Imatra, Finland. **PHOTO: VESA MOILANEN /AFP**



Medals by team

	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Viet Nam	181	106	106	393
2	Thailand	75	91	121	287
3	Indonesia	59	79	69	207
4	Philippines	47	65	89	201
5	Singapore	47	44	67	158
6	Malaysia	37	40	81	158
7	Myanmar	8	17	34	59
8	Cambodia	8	10	30	48
9	Laos	2	7	25	34
10	Brunei	1	1	1	3
11	Timor-Leste	0	2	1	3

Myanmar Rowing team win one silver and six bronzes in SEA Games 31

MYANMAR Rowing team won one silver and six bronze medals in the Rowing and Canoeing event of the 31st SEA Games held in Viet Nam on 21 May.

The Myanmar Rowing team won two more medals on the last day of the competition.

In the women's 200-metre canoe race, Thet Phyto Naing won a bronze medal. In the women's 200-metre four-athlete canoe race, Thet Phyto Naing, Su Wai Phyto, Myint Myint Soe and Moe Ma

bagged a bronze medal for Myanmar.

The Myanmar Rowing team had won no gold medal in the Canoeing and Rowing event but did win up to seven medals. The Canoeing and Rowing competition was held from 17 to 21 May.

The Myanmar team participated in both Rowing and Canoeing events and won three bronzes in the Rowing event, while team Myanmar grabbed one silver and six bronze medals in the Canoeing event.—Ko Nyi Lay/ GNLM

Malaysia sounds alarm over lowest SEA Games ranking in 40 years

A government minister says that “all Malaysians are disappointed” with what is threatening to be the country's lowest placing at the SEA Games in nearly 40 years. Traditionally a regional power, sports minister Ahmad Faizal Azumu sounded the alarm despite Malaysian athletes on Friday reaching the country's target of 36 golds with two days of competition to go.

But Malaysia languished sixth in the medals table as of Saturday morning, with hosts Vietnam way out in front with 167 golds, followed by Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore and the Philippines.

“All Malaysians are disappointed because we are not at a higher position,” Ahmad said at the Games on Friday, according to state news agency Bernama.—AFP

Filipino e-Sports team defeat Indonesia in Mobile Legends: Bang Bang final



The eSports team of the Philippines face their Indonesian rivals in the Mobile Legends: Bang Bang final match at SEA Games 31 on 20 May.

PHOTO: VNA

THE eSports team of the Philippines secured a gold medal after defeating their Indonesian rivals in the Mobile Legends: Bang Bang final match at SEA Games 31 on 20 May.

Filipino eSports players had a fairly simple victory against their opponent in the first game of the match.

However, with reasonable tactics and great efforts, the In-

donesian team quickly turned the tide in the 2nd game with a score of 18-10. The third game was quite “balanced”, but the Philippines still beat Indonesia.

Filipino players started the 4th game much more confidently and comfortably than their opponents because of the advantage of points. They easily defeated Indonesia in this match.—VNA

Myanmar women's football team miss bronze medal in SEA Games 31



Myanmar team Captain and Striker Khin Marlar Tun (centre) penetrated the Philippines' defence line during their 31st SEA Games Women's Football third-place title in Viet Nam on 21 May 2022. PHOTO: MFF

MYANMAR women's football team missed a bronze medal in the 31st SEA Games as the team lost to the Philippines women's team 1-2 in the third-place match on 21 May.

The Myanmar team was leading by one goal till 70 minutes, but conceded two goals in four minutes and faced a loss.

The Myanmar women's team broke the tradition of winning a medal every time it competed in the SEA Games and missed out on the medal for the first time in this 31st SEA Games.

Myanmar team came out with goalkeeper May Zin Nwe, Chit Chi, Khin Than Wai, Phyu Phyu Win, Khine Thazin, Thin Thin Yu, Khin Marlar Tun, Myat Noe Khin, Naw Htet Htet Wai, July Kyaw and Win Theingi Tun.

In the first half, the Myanmar team played better and had more chances to score, and in the 24th minute, Win Theingi Tun took the lead through a penalty.

However, Win Theingi Tun had to be replaced due to injury and the Myanmar team's attack weakened.

The Myanmar team was

weak in the second half and was under pressure from the Philippine team due to the lack of substitutes to replace the starting players.

In the 73rd minute, Boden equalized for the Philippines, and four minutes later Quezada scored the winner.

In the final match, host Viet Nam beat Thailand 1-0. Huyen Nu scored the winning goal for team Viet Nam in the 59th minute. Viet Nam has won the gold medal for the seventh time, the last three times in a row. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM



Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

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

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

3. Social affairs

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



Myanmar Vovinam team win one silver, two bronzes while Shooting team grab one more silver

THE 31st South-East Asian Games, hosted by Viet Nam, is being held at stadiums in various cities.

Maung Tin Htoo Zaw won the silver medal in the Vovinam Men's Single Weapon practice four-element staff form competition at the Son Son Stadium in Hanoi, Viet Nam yesterday evening. Next, Yar Zar Tun and Tin Htoo Zaw won a bronze medal in the Vovinam Male Couple Weapon practice pair machete form event and Kyaw Ko Ko won another bronze medal in the 55kg attack event. Likewise, Ye Tun Naung and Chit Soe Nwe won a silver medal in the 10-metre Air Pistol Mixed Team event. Myanmar Sepak Takraw Men's Team won one bronze medal and the Women's Team earned another bronze on the same day. In the 45kg Judo competition, Ma Sin Whee grabbed one bronze medal. In the women's 200-metre canoe race, Thet Phyo Naing won a bronze medal. In the women's 200-metre four-athlete canoe race, Thet Phyo Naing, Su Wai Phyo, Myint Myint Soe and Moe Ma Ma bagged a bronze medal for Myanmar. In the Men's Snooker Single event, Aung Phyo won another bronze medal for Myanmar. In the morning, the Union minister and party watched the performance of Myanmar athletes in the Sepak Takraw competition held at Hoang Mai Gymnasium in Hanoi and the Myanmar Judo Competition at Hoai Duc Gymnasium.

The Union minister presented prizes to the winners of the shooting competition held at the Hanoi National Sports Training Centre. The deputy minister and party enjoyed the third-place match of the Myanmar Women's Football Team against the Philippines at Cam Pha Stadium in Ha Long City.

Currently, Myanmar is standing in the seventh place in the SEA Games 31 by bagging 59 medals in total including eight golds, 17 silvers and 34 bronzes. — MNA

