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Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

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

Myanmar Industrial Port provides services for 25-35 cargo ships every month to facilitate trade

IN order to facilitate exports and imports, Myanmar Industrial Port (MIP) is reportedly handling 25 to 35 cargo ships per month.

Myanmar delivers agriculture and livestock products, finished industrial goods and other goods to external markets via the sea trade. The smooth transition of cargo ships and containers is contributing to the mechanism of economic development. There are five important terminals of Yangon Port and two Thilawa terminals in maritime trade in Yangon.

International trade depends on 90 per cent of the sea trade during the COVID-19 pandemic. Myanmar's government endeavoured to ensure trade facilitation and maritime trade returned to normalcy through a concerted effort. MIP is providing 24-hour services for six ocean liners including Myanmar Five Star Line, with over 700 staff and over 200 wage labourers.

MIP gave the go-ahead for export cargo with the necessary documents from Myanmar Port Authority. Then, the Customs Department proceeded to the screening process for exports.



A cargo vessel docks international port of Yangon to unload imported good. **PHOTO: KANU**

For the imports, cargo unloaded from ships is temporarily piled up and the owners can withdraw them after the tax payment. "MIP is delighted with its 24-hour nonstop service to ensure the fast and reliable cargo handling and withdrawal of the containers under the supervision of Myanmar Port Authority.

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Announcement for armed resistance organizations' members including PDF who want to enter legal fold

LESSONS have already been learnt from the past that unity can only assure non-disintegration of the Union and perpetuation of sovereignty for the Republic of the Union of Myanmar where various ethnic peoples are living in. In the future, it must work for the unity and solidarity of ethnic brethren. Due to political adversaries and disagreements in ethnic affairs, internal armed conflicts occurred and it has hampered the development of the country.

Those who were persuaded by terrorist groups CRPH and NUG to commit acts of terrorism leading to the utter devastation of the country and launch armed resistance under various names of groups including PDF. Such doings can affect the stability of the State and ensue delay in ways to democracy.

As the strength of the country lies on its own, the entire people should cooperate in establishing a genuine and disciplined multiparty democratic system as per the five-point roadmap of the State Administration Council, "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 according to democratic standards", and in line with "one of the objectives on political affairs to build a Union based on democracy and federalism through a disciplined and genuine multiparty democratic system that is fair and just".

Therefore, it is here announced that the organizations including PDF are welcomed if they enter the legal fold for their normal civilian lives by surrendering their weapons following rules and regulations to participate in future work plans of the country.

*Information Team
State Administration Council*

Invitation to basic education staff absent from duties extended

THE Information Team Committee of the State Administration Council invited teachers and education staff who have been absent due to intimidation, participation in protests, and travel difficulties and concerns to report to the nearest Township Education Offices before 31-5-2022 so as to resume their teaching duties.

To date, 2,482 teachers have contacted there.

For teachers who wish to report but are unable to report within the deadline due to transport and other difficulties, the reporting deadline has been extended to 14-6-2022.

*Information Team
State Administration Council*

Myanmar Industrial Port provides services for 25-35 cargo ships every month to facilitate trade

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"Three X-ray machines scan the goods and the goods can be withdrawn once they pass the Myanmar Customs. If we move the screening process of exports to Dry Port, it would handle more containers up to nearly 1,000 from over 500. It will increase revenues and make trade faster. That kind of constructive approach in line with global standards in maritime and port will bring about the benefits to the State," said an official of MIP.

A 20-foot container is allowed to keep at MIP for seven days with daily container service charges of US\$2-4. If they remain stranded at the Port for one year, they will be publicly auctioned off. Those containers unclaimed at the Port can wreak havoc on the cargo handling pro-



Photo carries handling of containers at Yangon Port. **PHOTO : KANU**

cess and trade flow. Myanmar Port Authority and Myanmar Customs Department are implementing a plan to clear those

abandoned containers through public auction at Yangon Port terminals.

Between January and De-

cember 2021, MIP handled over 210,000 (20-40 feet) containers and over 307,000 Twenty-foot Equivalent Units. It provided

safe and fast cargo loading and unloading services for 230 cargo ships.—Nyein Thu (MNA)/GNLM

3 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 12 June, total figure rises to 613,443

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **613,443** after **3** new cases were reported on 12 June 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **592,424** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll still stands at **19,434** without more casualties.

COVID-19 vaccine is being injected to those of priority groups in regions and states for prevention and control of the disease. Up to 11-6-2022, a total of **33,958,332** people have been vaccinated. Of them, **27,214,866** people have been fully vaccinated and **6,743,466** people have yet to get the second shots and **2,275,607** people have received booster doses.—MNA

Further invitation to remaining 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 remaining 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.)

MoNREC Union Minister inspects furniture factories, Gems & Jewellery Museum in Yangon



Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Khin Maung Yi views production of furniture at Diamond Mercury Wood Products Factory in Shwepyitha Township on 12 June.

UNION Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Khin Maung Yi

visited Sima Furniture Production Factory and inspected the production lines in the factory

yesterday.

Officials briefed the Union Minister on the production, dis-

tribution and market conditions of the furniture.

Then, the Union Minister inspected the stages of furniture production and instructed officials to export the products for meeting not only domestic demand but also foreign markets by increasing the production of high quality furniture products.

Next, the Union Minister visited Diamond Mercury Wood Products Factory in Shwepyitha Township and briefed the officials on the operation of the factory briefing hall and the Union Minister coordinated the necessary work.

Afterwards, the Union Minister inspected the production of high-value finished wooden doors and frames using teak poles from the plantations.

In meeting with officials at the office of the Department of Geological Survey and Mineral Exploration in North Okkalapa Township, the Union minister called for more advanced human resource development technology and testing equipment, strategic mining plus exploration of potential ores in the field of high-tech mineral ores and feasibility study processes.

Then, the Union Minister inspected the laboratory tests of mineral samples sent from the field areas in the mineral laboratories.

Next, the Union Minister visited the Gems and Jewellery Museum in Mayangon Township.

Officials briefed the Union minister on information and museum maintenance.—MNA

Peace delegation led by Vice Chair of Arakan Liberation Party (ALP) arrives in Nay Pyi Taw to participate in peace talks offered by the SAC Chairman

AS Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 22 April called for peace talks with ethnic armed organizations-EAOs to restore perpetual peace in the country and an end to the armed conflicts, a peace delegation led by Vice Chair of the Arakan Liberation Party (ALP) Daw Saw Mra Razar Lin left Sittway, Rakhine State by Tatmadaw aircraft, for Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the Sittway Airport, the peace delegation was seen off by officials from the Sittway Station, department officials, ethnic cultural groups, and local people who supported the country's stability, peace, and development

by holding vinyl posters reading "Peace talks succeed!".

On arrival at the Nay Pyi Taw Airport, the delegation was welcomed by members of the National Solidarity and Peace-making Negotiation Committee and ethnic people from the Department of Fine Arts, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, department staff, and local people who wants peace holding the Myanmar miniature flags and placards bearing, "Perpetual Peace is the real aspiration of the people", "Achieving peace is the true desire of all citizens", "Let's hold talks for peace in the Union", "Only the ethnic nationalities are in unity, stability, peace and tranquility will be achieved".—MNA



Vice-Chair of ALP Daw Saw Mra Raza Lin and party of peace delegation are welcomed at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by officials on 12 June.

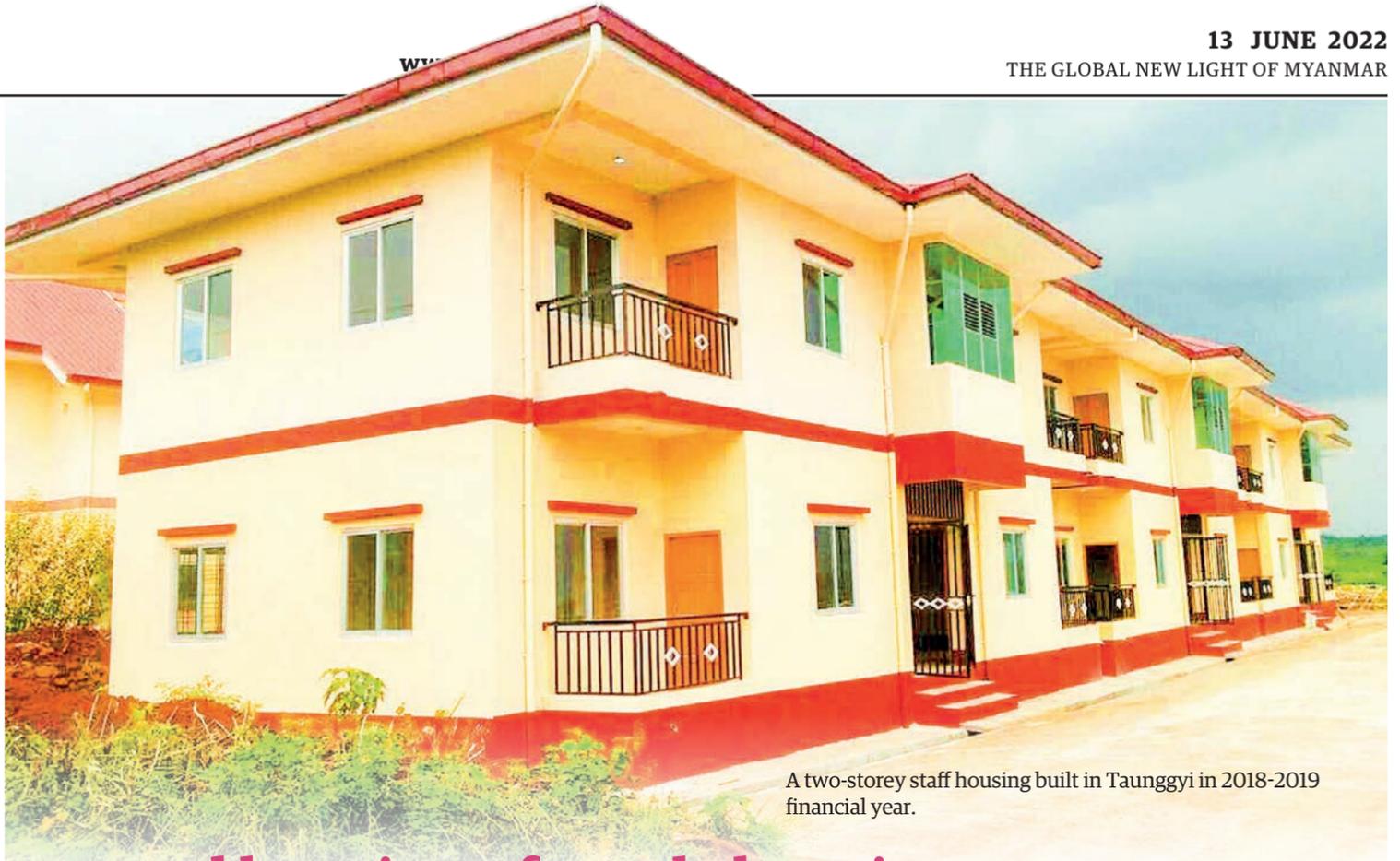
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TAUNGGYI, the capital city of Shan State, is at an altitude of 4,702 feet. There was a Pa-O village called Dontaungti village in the place now called Taunggyi at about 1200 ME. There were Pinlong, Shan, Meinmyein and Warpyar villages near the vicinity of that village. Moreover, there were four lakes and one great lake.

Taunggyi township was established in 1253 ME and the government offices were firstly based in Mongthauk village of Nyaungshwe township. Then, they were relocated in current location of Taunggyi. Therefore, Taunggyi is more than 100 years old.

There are three sections in Shan State such as southern, eastern and northern and



A two-storey staff housing built in Taunggyi in 2018-2019 financial year.

Staff housings, rental housings, for-sale housings constructed by government for service personnel, retired employees, people in Shan State

By Kayan Soe Myint

Kengtung district in eastern Shan State was formally called Zeitung. Monghkat Township in Kengtung district was not a town until 1962 and it was just a town under control of a border affairs sub-divisional officer.

Lashio in northern Shan State lies at 2,806 feet above sea level. The highest mountain is Taungkyaw Mountain, 7,470 ft above sea level in Namhsam Township. The region boasts of wide lands, hills and mountains. The famous places are Bawkyo pagoda, Namhunwe waterfall, Russia mountain, Mansu pagoda and Goktwin View Point.

The Urban and Housing Development Department under the Ministry of Construction constructed the staff housings, rental housings and other housings for sale for entire ethnic nationals, government employees and retired employees in such remote and hilly region.

The main objective of the department is to ensure balanced and sustainable development of rural and urban areas and to provide suitable housings successively for the public. The department is a key in providing

accommodation out of three main basic needs like food, clothing and shelters for the people.

The Department of Urban and Housing Development office is concentrated in Taunggyi Township and manages for southern, northern and eastern parts of Shan State including five offices in self-administered regions, three district offices and three township offices.

Housing sector

The government constructed six three-storey buildings with 72 apartments in 1967-68 in Taunggyi, three two-storey buildings and one two-storey building in Kengtung in 1969-70. In 1998, it built 40 two-storey housings in Muse while six two-storey buildings in Lashio in 1997-98 and one two-storey building and 3 two-storey buildings in Tachilek and one two-storey building in Laukkai in 2009-2010.

Before the opening of township department offices, the staff housings were constructed in six townships. When the offices were launched at staff officer level in 2011, the housings were developed in Hopong, Namhsam, Pin-

daya and Hopan in four self-administered zones.

When director level officers were appointed there in April 2015, the operations were conducted more effectively. Before 2015, there were only 692 apartments in 10 townships but now there are 1,170 apartments in 16 townships. Therefore, there are a total of 1,862 apartments of staff housings in 26 townships.

The public rental housings such as six five-storey buildings with 120 apartments were constructed in Taunggyi and one five-storey building with 36 apartments in Tachilek. The apartments were rented to public at low prices.

The rental price of three five-storey buildings with 60 apartments in Taunggyi was K30,000 (each apartment includes 750 square feet wide 3 bedrooms) while the three five-storey buildings with 60 apartments was K 20,000 (each apartment includes 650 sq ft wide one bedroom). In Tachilek, the rental price of two five-storey buildings with 36 apartments was K20,000 (438 sq ft wide Hall Type, kitchen, bathroom and toilet). In 2021-2022 FY,

the government constructed 12 buildings with 176 apartments in 11 townships.

The Town Plan was drafted in 1990 and it was drafted for 11 townships in Southern Shan State, six townships in Northern Shan State and six more townships in Eastern Shan State.

The town plans are being constructed for the remaining townships and the current town plans are also revised to meet the trend. The officials and experts of Urban and Housing Development Department from Nay Pyi Taw work together with departmental officials, town elders and residents of respective regions in drafting the town plans.

In 2021-2022 FY, the government constructed one four-storey building each in Yaksawk, Hsihseng, Kunhing and Mongpan townships in Southern Shan State.

It also completed one four-storey building in Hopong, one four-storey building in Yaksawk, one two-storey building in Ywangan, one three-storey building in Pindaya and one four-storey building in Loilem in March 2022.

The Shan State Urban and

Housing Development Department constructed one four-storey building each in Kengtung, Mongphyat and Mongton townships in eastern Shan State and also completed one four-storey building respectively in Kengtung, Monghsat and Mongphyat townships in March 2022.

Similarly, the Urban and Housing Development Department (Shan State) also completed one three-storey building in Kyaukme, one four-storey building in Muse, one four-storey building in Hsenwi and one three-storey building in Hopang Township. Moreover, the department constructed one three-storey building in Hsenwi Township of Shan State (North) while one four-storey building in Muse and one three-storey building in Mongmit township in 2022.

The government constructed a total of 74 staff housings with 1,170 apartments, seven rental housings with 156 apartments and 81 housing units with 1,326 apartments in Shan State from 2016-2017 to 2020-2021.

There were only 15 staff housings with 692 apartments in 10 townships of Shan State until 2015, and as 74 staff housings with 1,170 apartments and seven rental housings with 156 apartments were constructed in 16 townships, there are 179 staff housings with 1,862 apartments in Shan State to date.

Translated. ■

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Prices of gasoline and diesel reach K 2,305 and K 2,640 per litre respectively

THE price of gasoline has reached K 2,305 per litre while a litre of diesel has become K 2,640, as the highest prices in Yangon, according to the petrol stations.

According to the statement of the Petroleum Import, Storage, and Distribution Supervision Committee on 11 June, a litre of gasoline (92) was priced at K 2,305, gasoline (95) K 2,370, ordinary diesel K 2,610, and premium diesel K 2,640.

It is being sold at the prices announced by the committee, and the current price has been the highest for this year. According to the prices announced on 10 June, a litre of gasoline (92) was K 2,265, gasoline (95) K 2,320, ordinary diesel K 2,540, and premium diesel K 2,570. Compared to the prices between two days, the price of gasoline (92) increased by K 40, gasoline (95) by K 50, ordinary diesel by K 70, and premium diesel by K 70 per litre.

The prices of fuel are the cheapest in Yangon, and they are different in other areas due to transportation costs from Yangon.—TWA/GNLM

Yangon-Bago (Kali) bus service resumed on 11 June



Passenger buses are ready to transport passengers along Yangon-Bago (Kali) route.

THE Yangon-Bago (Kali) passenger bus line, which stopped its services due to the rising fuel prices, resumed on 11 June, according to the bus line.

The bus line which started operation on 19 May with the use of five Daewoo passenger buses from Yangon to Bago (Kali) and vice-versa, made an announcement on 3 June on social media and its temporary suspension of services starting from

10-6-2022 due to the further increase in petrol prices.

“We use 10 buses along the route. If they transport passengers, their transport service will be cost effective. Otherwise, the bus line will face loss for prices of fuel,” said U Thein Win of Bago told the GNLM.

However, the bus company informed its passengers through the social network that it would resume

the services without stopping at the request of the passengers on 10 June. The Yangon-Bago passenger bus line operate by just loading and unloading process without waiting for passengers, and passengers have to put fares in a box. The bus departs every 30 minutes from 6 am for Yangon, and those buses depart for Bago from Yangon every 30 minutes from 3 pm.—TWA/GNLM

Duck egg price reaches K 300 due to increased livestock feed price



Vendors sell egg roadside near Lanmadaw jetty in Yangon.

RETAIL prices of eggs in the domestic market have risen since July last year, when they became a healthy food during the COVID-19 epidemic.

“As eggs were consumed as

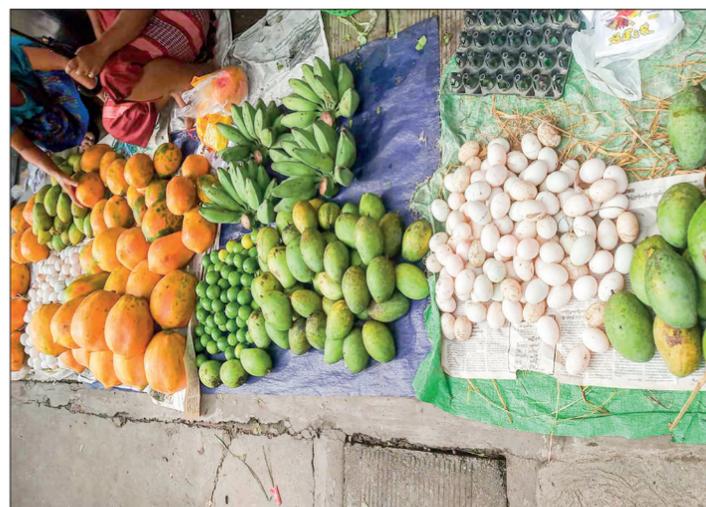
a healthy diet in the COVID-19 period, the price has risen from K 100/120 per egg to K 1,000 for 6/8 eggs; Since then, the prices of chicken and duck feed went up and have not dropped again,”

said a consumer in Lanmadaw Township.

Although the price of a duck egg sold by retailers who re-sell the eggs from egg wholesale centres is K 300, the vendors from the delta areas are selling them at K 240/250 for a big one, and K 200 for a small one.

Duck farming is practiced in the delta areas, where a retail egg costs only K 180/200, said U Than Chaung, a resident in Mawlamyinegyun. This

month’s livestock feed prices is 28,000 kyats per bag, Ko Soe Tint, a livestock farmer in Bogale said. With the onset of the rainy season this month, ducks can still be released in the fields when farming begins, and so there is a reasonable saving of feed. In shopping malls, a package with 10 eggs weighing 60 grams each costs 1,900 kyats, at 2100 kyats per 70 grams, and the occasional organic egg card sells for around 3,000 kyats.—TWA/GNLM



A retail shop sells eggs at fair prices.

2.2 million students received 1st dose of COVID-19 vaccines

A total of 2,225,955 students aged from 5 to 12 years old in basic education schools were vaccinated for the first time from 2 to 10 June upon opening of the schools, according to the Ministry of Health.

As a result, 61.47% of the target group has been vaccinated. The COVID-19 vaccine, given to students between the ages of 5 and 12, is a Sinopham vaccine, the same dose given to adults.

According to the statement, the Ministry of Health will continue to vaccinate school-age children between the ages of 5 and 15 once they have been vaccinated.

In Myanmar, approximated population for students aged 5 to 12 is about 3.62 million, and out-of-school children aged 5 to 15 is about one million.—TWA/GNLM

CRIME NEWS

Illegal foodstuffs, cement, chemicals, electronics, and vehicles seized

UNDER the supervision of the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee, effective action is being taken to prevent illegal trade in accordance with the law.

Under the instructions of the Chairman of the Anti-Illicit Trade Task Force, combined inspection teams inspected warehouses in Kawthoung Township, Taninthayi Region on 9 June and seized 2,987 bags of cement without payment for customs duties at estimated value of K22.799 million and effective action is being taken in accordance with customs procedures.

Similarly, inspections were carried out at the Myanmar Industrial Port Container Inspection Station under the management of the Customs Department on 10 June.

A port inspection team seized double tapes without import licence at estimated value of K4,931,360 as well.

On 11 June, the Customs Inspection Team seized ceramics, which were not mentioned in the import declaration ID, 65-inch TV and bicycle accessories at estimated value of K16,317,420 and action is being taken in accordance with



Photo shows seized bags of cement in Kawthoung Township on 9 June.

customs procedures.

Similarly, officials from the 16th-Mile checkpoint under the management of the Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force conducted patrols in Mandalay Region on 11 June.

Next, 150 cartons of HIIN GUANG beers at approximately K750,000 were seized at milepost No. 16/2 on Mandalay-PyinOoLwin Road, and action is being taken in accord-

ance with customs procedures.

In addition, a combined team led by the Myanmar Police Force conducted inspection under the management of the Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force in Mon State.

A bag containing white

150 cartons of beer seized on Mandalay-PyinOoLwin Road in Mandalay on 11 June.



seeds believed to be ammonium nitrate, an illegal control chemical estimated at K19.2 million, was seized and action is being taken with the law.

In addition, an unlicensed TOYOTA Ipsum vehicle estimated at K3.5 million was seized under the management of the Anti-Trafficking Task Force in Sagaing Region on 12 June and action is being taken in accordance with the Import and Export Law.

Therefore, a total of 10 arrests at estimated at K67,497,780, were made on four consecutive days according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee.—MNA

A homemade mine planted by PDF terrorists found in ChaungU high school in Sagaing Region

ACCORDING to a report on the discovery of three suspicious bags in the ChaungU Basic Education High School in ChaungU Township, Sagaing Region, on the afternoon of 11 June, security personnel went to the school and investigated the area and found three homemade mines made of iron pipes

in three black plastic bags located in the north of the school.

The security personnel removed the mines and cleared the area, it is reported. In order to identify and take action against the perpetrators, security forces are investigating, and the people are urged to report any information about them to the relevant administration bodies and security forces.

The State Government opened the basic education schools on 2 June to ensure that the country's future generation take full advantage of education opportunities, and providing school uniforms, stationery, textbooks, and COVID-19 vaccination are being intensified.

However, the so-called NUG terrorist organization and its affiliates, the PDF terrorists, are using various methods such as intimidation and coercion of teachers and parents, arrest and killing, burning of educational buildings, mine blasts, burning of textbooks and lootings to discourage the education of children, to create an uneducated class, and instill fear to support them.—MNA

PDF and report any information about them to the relevant administration bodies and security forces.

PDF and report any information about them to the relevant administration bodies and security forces.



Photos show site where packets of homemade mines in compound of ChaungU BEHS on 11 June.

PDF terrorists attack passenger vehicles, rob trucks, goods on board in some townships

SO-CALLED PDF terrorists are blowing up passenger vehicles and committing the looting of trucks and goods on the vehicles in some townships. In doing so, a group of about 30 PDF terrorists stopped a truck and robbed the loaded goods, including 40 bags of rice, corrugated iron sheets, and food items, near the Padaukgyi village football ground in Thayetchaung township, Taninthayi Region, at around 11:50 pm on 10 June.

The terrorists let the drivers of the truck go back, so they drove

towards Kanyinchaung village, located in the north of Padaukgyi village. Similarly, a passenger vehicle was blown up by five homemade mines planted by the PDF terrorists on the Monywa-Ayadaw-Shwebo road in the west of Kannpyu village in Ayadaw Township, Sagaing Region on the morning of 11 June.

The mines destroyed the vehicle but no one was injured. It is reported that local security forces are working to identify and arrest the terrorists in accordance with the security regulations.—GNLM

Price of black gram hits over K1.5 mln per tonne

By Toe Gyi

THE prices of black gram RC (urad) have been moving onwards since the first week of June 2022 and touched a high of K1,537,500 per tonne.

Newly harvested black grams stayed below K1.5 million per tonne in May. The price hit K1,537,500 per tonne on 11 June. Black gram fetched only K1.4 million per tonne on 12 May. The figures reflect an increase of K120,000 per tonne within one week.

Cultivation of black gram and various beans and pulses

Delta regions see the cultivation of summer paddy, chilli pepper and black gram as intercropping practice after the monsoon paddy season ends. The black gram is successfully yielded in the delta regions. The majority of the beans are harvested in winter rather than monsoon season. Tropical central Myanmar regions witness a large number of bean acres in the monsoon season.

The Delta region is a major production area for the winter bean season. Hinthada, Wakema and Kyaunggon areas do a roaring trade in black gram.

As Myanmar practised a socialist economic system from 1962, private ownership was discouraged. The country adopted a new market economy policy in 1988 and the private sector was allowed to generate profits in rice, beans and pulses production and exports.

In the past 34 years, beans and pulses exports contributed to foreign exchange earnings. The



Merchants check quality of pulses and beans at wholesale centre.

beans have become one of the important agricultural export items.

The yield of the bean was estimated at 24.16 million baskets from 9.63 million sowing acres in the 2020-2021 Financial Year, according to the statement of a related department.

Black grams acquiring foreign market share

Myanmar shipped US\$1,324.27 million worth of 1.75 million tonnes of various pulses in the 2020-2021 Financial Year.

There were 1.8 million acres of beans and pulses in the 1988-1989 Financial Year and Myanmar exported only 40,000 tonnes to its foreign trade partners then.

In the 2000-2001FY, the country had over 7.3 million bean acres and export volumes reached 800,000 tonnes. During the 2001-2002FY and 2003-2004 period, the 2008-2009FY and 2012-2013FY period, over one million tonnes of various beans were yearly exported.

Black gram price changes in the Yangon market

India is the main buyer of Myanmar's black gram and its demand is highly correlated with the black gram market in Yangon.

If India faces low yield due to extreme weather conditions, it will highly purchase the black gram and pigeon peas from Myanmar, bean traders elaborated. The price of black gram (RC) was K2,456,000 per tonne while the Special Quality black gram fetched K2,576,000 per tonne on 17 October 2015. The price drastically plunged to K345,000 per tonne of black gram (RC) on 1 January 2009.

There is a price gap of K2 million per tonne of the black gram between 2008 and 2017.

Some events affecting the black gram market

Out of the market events in the past decade (2008-2017) in Yangon, over K200 billion in scams of some traders dealt a

huge blow to the beans and pulses market. After that, India temporarily restricted bean import for six months. Myanmar's bean prices plummeted. The related institutions suggested the growers reduce the growing acreage.

Additionally, advanced purchases were highly seen in mid-2018 in Yangon Region. However, there was a significant price gap of K300,000 between the advanced purchase rate in mid-2018 and the actual market rate in late-2018. Some traders had difficulty making advanced payments due to the huge gap. There were over 500 victims involved in the scandal related to eight unscrupulous B&P traders, rendering losses of K203 billion, according to the media statement then. Following the scam, the advanced purchase was still witnessed in Yangon and Mandalay cities yet some B&P traders fled with the money. To avoid unnecessary fraudulent cases, the authorities directed the traders to make immediate pay-

ment for the beans and pulses.

India's policy changes on the importation of beans in August 2017 negatively affected Myanmar's black gram and pigeon peas market. The export came to an abrupt halt, forcing the Bayintnaung wholesale market to temporarily shut down at the end of August 2017. The price of black gram was down by K200,000 per tonne when the market was reopened. The downward trend of the black gram market extended until mid-2018.

In late August 2017, the institutions concerned issued the reference rate at K500,000 per tonne for black gram and K400,000 for pigeon peas. The related association also encouraged the growers through the state-run newspapers to turn to other crops before mid-2018.

Shortly after the announcement, the news was that India would return to buy black gram and pigeon peas under import quota and restricted time. India gave green light to bean imports in line with its rules and regulations. As a result, the black gram price hit around K1.5 million per tonne.

This year, the growers who will carry out sequential cropping after monsoon paddy season along the river delta regions are unlikely to reap a large profit owing to a hike in fuel oil prices and high prices of agricultural inputs such as fertilizer and pesticide, B&P market observers said.

Translated

Soft areca nut fruit market performing best on China's demand

CHINA'S demand makes the soft areca nut fruit market bustle. A soft and moist areca nut fruit is offered a minimum of K35 and a maximum of K65, the market data indicated.

The husk part of ripe areca nut fruit is quite spongy and it contains more juicy liquid than matured ones. There is no data on how China utilizes those areca nuts. Yet, they are penetrating the Southeast Asian market as a snack after the areca nut fruits are steamed and dried.

Moreover, the skin of the fruits is mostly consumed in

some foreign countries rather than the seed. They utilize them in making medicine and snacks.

According to Chinese Business News, areca nut production generates an annual income of 30 billion yuan (US\$4.4 billion).

The steady production causes the growing need for raw materials. Chinese buyers came to Myanmar and purchased soft areca nut fruits. Consequently, Myanmar's areca nut fruit market has grasped a strong market share.

Generally, the matured areca nuts are placed on the market

after the drying and processing stages. The prevailing price of dried areca nuts is K30 per piece. Meanwhile, the soft areca nut fruit is offered K35 at a minimum without having additional charges for processing. This way, the farm owners focus on the sales of soft and moist areca nut fruits.

Myanmar's areca nut fruit market has become widespread. The commodity depot of areca nut fruits emerged in the producing states and regions (Rakhine, Mon and Kayin states and Taninthayi and Ayeyawady regions). The brokers do a roaring trade

with the competitive pricing.

The brokers go down to farms and buy areca nut fruits from 17-18 g sized fruits to over 30-g sized fruits, according to the areca nut fruit processing factory in Yangon. The prices move in the range of K35 to K65 per piece depending on the size, a broker from Myeik elaborated.

Earlier, Myanmar harvested only matured areca nut fruits and only the dried areca nuts were delivered to the market. Nonetheless, coronavirus impacts in 2020 and political changes in 2021 hindered some busi-

ness operations. Therefore, the farm owners expressed a keen interest in the harvest of ripe areca nut fruits on the back of China's demand with high prices. The market grew this way and farm owners make a handsome profit at present.

Furthermore, Myanmar ships about 40,000 visses of areca nut to Thailand every month, allowing the areca nut fruit traders to financially do well.

Nonetheless, the dried areca nut production is likely to drop in future so market analysis is required. — NN/GNLM

OPINION

Encourage creation and invention under copyright laws for new generations

ALL creators and inventors really wish to enjoy the fruits of their creations as copyrights because they invested their precious lifetimes, technology, money, materials and others in initiating creative and inventive measures of the new intellectual products.

Section 37 (c) of the Constitution (2008) states: The Union shall permit citizens' right of private property, right of inheritance, right of private initiative and patent in accord with the law and Section 372 stipulates: The Union guarantees the right to ownership, the use of the property and the right to the private invention and patent

in the conducting of business if it is not contrary to the provisions of this Constitution and the existing laws.

In the globalization era, the copyright is of great importance in speeded development of technologies for governments, departments, entrepreneurs and businesspersons. It is because violation of the copyright destroys the future of all created products.

Exercising the copyright will contribute much to the development of businesses based on creations as well as the emergence of government and private sectors with high creativity and high capability of competitiveness.

The government has enacted four laws related to copyright namely Trademark Copyright Law, Industrial Design Copyright Law, Invention Copyright Law and Literary and Artistic Copyright Law on 30 January 2019 in order to

protect the rights of creators and inventors.

As the IP project is being implemented in the ASEAN region, all regional countries are implementing the IP system contributing to the development of investment and trade flow as well as economic booming. Hence, Myanmar needs to prepare to join the IP international conventions similar to other ASEAN member countries in accord with the procedures of the ASEAN Economic Community.

Exercising the IP laws will contribute to the development of the State economy, strengthening the system of protecting the IP system for businesspersons, increasing the foreign investment and human resources, creating new job opportunities, taking over the modern techniques and raising the production.

Only when the creators and inventors for all creations in various arenas can get guarantees from the government for their copyrights for products, will they be active with greater keenness to do more creations based on energetic creativity and fresh souls.

Truly, creations and inventions facilitate the future of society to be able to enjoy better and better things. Consequently, new generations will have greater creativity and capacity based on skilfulness and techniques to apply the better things of original creators.

Research: Babies exposed to COVID in womb can display neurodevelopmental changes

BABIES born to mothers who suffered COVID-19 disease during pregnancy seem to exhibit differences in neurodevelopmental outcomes in 6 weeks, according to a preliminary analysis.

The analysis was presented at the 30th European Congress of Psychiatry. Project Leader Dr Rosa Ayesa Arriola said: "Not all babies born to mothers infected with COVID show neurodevelopmental differences, but our data shows that their risk is increased in comparison to those not exposed to COVID in the womb. We need a bigger study to confirm the exact extent of the difference".

Non-infected mothers

Researchers found that babies born to mothers who had been infected show greater difficulties in relaxing and adapting their bodies when they are being held when compared to infants from non-infected mothers, especially when the infection took place in late pregnancy. Moreover, infants born from infected mothers tend

to show greater difficulty in controlling head and shoulder movement. These alterations suggest a possible COVID-19 effect on motor function (movement control). The results come from an initial evaluation of the Spanish COGES-TCOV-19 project, which followed the course of pregnancy and baby development in mothers infected with COVID-19. The researchers are presenting the data on pregnancy and post-natal assessment at 6 weeks after birth, but the project will continue to see if there are longer-term effects. The group will monitor infant language and motor development between 18 and 42 months old.

Initial evaluation

The initial evaluation compared babies born to 21 COVID-positive pregnant women and their babies, with 21 healthy controls attending the Marques de Valdecilla University Hospital in Santander, Spain. The mothers underwent a series of tests during and after pregnancy. These included hormonal and other biochemical tests (measuring such things as cortisol levels, immunological response, etc.) salivary tests, movement responses, and psychological questionnaires. All analyses were adjusted for infant age, sex, and other factors. The post-natal tests included the Neonatal Behavioral Assessment Scale (NBAS), which measures the baby's movement and behaviour. Researcher Ms Agueda Castro Quintas (University of Barcelona, Network Centre for Biomedical Research in Mental Health), said: "We found that certain elements of the NBAS measurement were changed in 6-week-old infants who had been exposed to the SARS-COV-2 virus. Effectively they react slightly differently to being held, or cuddled".

Preliminary results

He added, "We have been especially sensitive in how we have conducted these tests. Each mother and baby were closely examined by clinicians with expert training in the field and in the tests. We need to note that these are the preliminary results, but this is part of a project following a larger sample of 100 mothers and their babies. They have also been monitored during pregnancy and after birth. We also plan to compare these



Pediatrician Raul Seminario assesses the medical condition of an infant infected with COVID-19 at the nursery ward of the Felipe Uriola Hospital in Iquitos, Peru on 8 July 2020. PHOTO: CESAR VON BANCELIS / AFP/FILE

mothers and babies with data from another similar project (the epi-project) which looks at the effect of stress and genetics on a child's neurodevelopment". Agueda Castro Quintas contin-

ued: "This is an ongoing project, and we are at an early stage. We found that babies whose mothers had been exposed to COVID did show neurological effects at 6 weeks, but we don't know if these

effects will result in any longer-term issues, longer-term observation may help us understand this. Co-researcher Nerea San Martin Gonzalez, added: "Of course, in babies who are so young there are several things we just can't measure, such as language skills or cognition. We also need to be aware that this is a comparatively small sample, so we are repeating the work, and we will follow this up over a longer period. We need a bigger sample to determine the role of infection on offspring's neurodevelopmental alterations and the contribution of other environmental factors. In the meantime, we need to stress the importance of medical monitoring to facilitate a healthy pregnancy, discuss any concerns with your doctor wherever necessary".

International collaborations

Commenting, Project Leader Dr Rosa Ayesa Arriola said: "This is the right moment to establish international collaborations that would permit us to assess long-term neurodevelop-

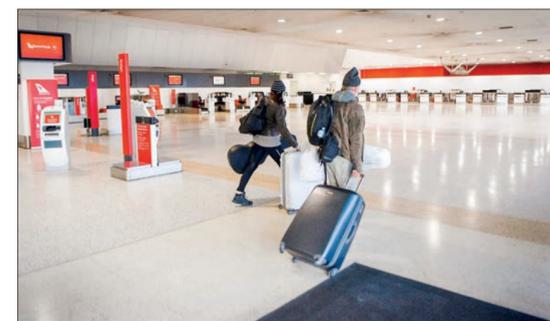
ment in children born during the COVID-19 pandemic. Research in this field is vital in understanding and preventing possible neurological problems and mental health vulnerabilities in those children in the coming years". In an independent comment, Dr Livio Provenzi (University of Pavia, Italy) said: "There is a great need to study both direct and indirect effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the health and well-being of parents and infants. Pregnancy is a period of life which shapes much of our subsequent development, and exposure to adversity during pregnancy can leave long-lasting biological footprints. These findings from Dr Rosa Ayesa Arriola's group reinforce evidence of epigenetic alterations in infants born from mothers exposed to pandemic-related stress during pregnancy. It shows we need more large scale, international research to allow us to understand the developmental effects of this health emergency and to deliver better quality of care to parents and infants".

SOURCE: ANI

US health experts: Monkeypox cases harder to detect

US health experts said Friday that cases of monkeypox that are being detected at the moment do not necessarily display the usual symptoms, making the disease more difficult to diagnose.

The Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) stressed that identifying cases was crucial to curbing the spread of the disease.



Anyone with symptoms or a diagnosis of monkeypox should delay their travel and isolate. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ AFP

"We have seen presentations of monkeypox that are mild and sometimes only limited areas of the body, which differs from the classic presentation seen in endemic countries in Western Central Africa," said Rochelle Walensky, head of the CDC.

"This has prompted concern that some cases may go unrecognized or undiagnosed,"

she added, urging increased vigilance among members of the medical profession and the public in general.

Current cases do not always present flu-like symptoms

Current cases do not always present flu-like symptoms, such as fever, body aches and swollen glands that typically precede the appearance of the rash characteristic of the disease.

Additionally, while these rashes typically appear all over the body, many current cases are limited to certain areas.

"It's important to be aware that monkeypox cases may present similar to some sexually transmitted infections," such as herpes, "and could be mistaken for other diagnoses," Walensky said.

The United States has now recorded 45 cases, she added, twice as many as last week. No

deaths have been reported.

As of June 9, around 1,300 cases had been identified worldwide, she said.

Transmission requires close and prolonged contact between two people. The United States is counting in particular on the vaccination of contact cases to stem the epidemic.

The country has 100 million doses of the vaccine ACAM2000, but is in the process of getting doses of another more modern vaccine, Jynneos, she said.

At the end of May, the United States had only 1,000 doses of the newer drug, compared to 72,000 today, said Dawn O'Connell of the Department of Health on Friday.

Another 300,000 doses are expected to arrive in the coming weeks, she added.

SOURCE: AFP

Reference wholesale price set as K5,645 per viss of palm oil

IT was announced on 12 June that it would take action under the Important Goods and Services Act if the persons raise prices, stores goods illegally and scams in the domestic market. The Committee for the Supervision of the Import and Distribution of Edible Oils under the Ministry of Commerce has issued a statement in a bid to manage the domestic palm oil prices.

Depending on the daily monitoring of FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia, transportation costs, bank expenses, and basic wholesale reference price to be traded in the local market are taken into account, including taxes for setting the proper prices.

Palm oil prices fallen slightly in the world's palm oil exporters this week, with FOB prices expected to decline sharply this week.

From 13 to 19 June, the basic Yangon Reference Wholesale Price of palm oil is K5,645 per viss.

These basic wholesale quotes are available on the Department of Consumer Affairs website: www.doca.gov.mm and on the Facebook page of the Myanmar Oil Traders and Oil Entrepreneurs Association.—MNA

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 12 June 2022)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is moderate over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 13 June 2022: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing and Magway regions, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing, and Mandalay regions and (Northern and Eastern) Shan, Chin and Rakhine states and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Upper Sagaing, Bago, and Ayeyawady regions and Kachin and Rakhine states. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar Waters. Wave height will be about (6-8) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of rain in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin and (Northern and Eastern) Shan states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 13 June 2022: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 13 June 2022: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

SCI/ENVIRON WORLD

Asteroid samples contain 'clues to origin of life': Japan scientists



A computer graphic shows image of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency's asteroid explorer Hayabusa 2 approaching its target asteroid Ryugu. **PHOTO: JAXA / VIA KYODO**

ASTEROID dust collected by a Japanese space probe contains organic material that shows some of the building blocks of life on Earth may have been formed in space, scientists said Sunday.

Pristine material from the asteroid Ryugu was brought back to Earth in 2020 after a six-year mission to the celestial body around 300 million kilometres

away.

But scientists are only just beginning to discover its secrets in the first studies on small portions of the 5.4 grams (0.2 ounce) of dust and dark, tiny rocks.

In one paper published Friday, a group of researchers led by Okayama University in western Japan said they had discovered "amino acids and other organic

matter that could give clues to the origin of life on Earth".

"The discovery of protein-forming amino acids is important, because Ryugu has not been exposed to the Earth's biosphere, like meteorites, and as such their detection proves that at least some of the building blocks of life on Earth could have been formed in space environments," the study said.

The team said they found 23 different types of amino acid while examining the sample collected by Japan's Hayabusa-2 probe in 2019. The dust and rocks were stirred up when the fridge-sized spacecraft fired an "impactor" into the asteroid.

"The Ryugu sample has the most primitive characteristics of any natural sample available to mankind, including meteorites," the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) said in a statement. —AFP

China tops world in number of world natural heritage sites

CHINA has the world's largest number of world natural heritage sites, according to the National Forestry and Grassland Administration.

The country is now home to 14 world natural heritage sites and four heritage sites noted for both cultural and natural features, both leading the world in

terms of quantity, the administration said. These heritage sites effectively protected China's representative geological relics, the gorgeous mountains, forests and lakes, along with the rare and endangered animal and plant species, the administration said.

These areas have contributed to the protection of cultural

relics, intangible cultural heritages, and historic cities, towns and villages, bringing in an annual average tourism revenue of over 14 billion yuan (about 2.1 billion US dollars) for locals.

Saturday marks China's Cultural and Natural Heritage Day, which falls on the second Saturday of June every year. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

EU lawmakers pass ban on new petrol, diesel cars by 2035

IN the face of strong conservative opposition, European Parliament lawmakers yesterday narrowly voted to back a European Commission proposal for a total ban on new carbon dioxide (CO2) emitting vehicles by 2035.

The commission last year unveiled plans to stop the sale of vehicles using internal combustion engines as part of an ambitious climate target to cut emissions by more than half over this decade and 90% by 2035.

The measure passed by 339 votes to 249 with 24 abstentions at a session in Strasbourg – in practice limiting future sales to emissions-free all-electric models.

Cars currently account for 12% of all CO2 emissions in the 27-member EU bloc, while transportation overall accounts for around a quarter. —AFP

Aussie state unveils 850-mln-USD plan to build renewable energy zones

THE government of the Australian state of New South Wales (NSW) has announced a 10-year, 1.2-billion-Australian dollar (850-million-US dollar) plan to create Renewable Energy Zones to replace existing power stations across the state.

NSW Treasurer and Minister for Energy Matt Kean said the initiative would fast-track the state's transition to clean energy and make energy supply cheaper and more reliable.

"Renewable Energy Zones are modern-day power stations, providing cheap and clean power for the homes and business of NSW," Kean said.

He said the facilities are expected to drive private investment, fully recouping the expenditure while creating 2,700 direct construction jobs in the state.

"Fast-tracking the construction of renewable energy is the best way to reduce our exposure to these risks and take advantage of cleaner, cheaper power sources."

The first project of the program is the Waratah Super Battery, which will be the largest standby network battery in the Southern Hemisphere and would store wind and solar energy for the state's largest cities. — Xinhua

Superworms could become mini plastic recycling plants: Aussie researchers

AUSTRALIAN scientists found that superworms have a surprisingly healthy appetite for polystyrene, which the researchers hope could eventually be used to recycle plastic in an environmentally safe way.

In a new study published in the *Microbial Genomics* journal and revealed on Friday, the team from the University of Queensland (UQ) School of Chemistry and Molecular Biosciences explained how the species *Zophobas morio* — commonly known as superworms or giant mealworms — can thrive by snacking on styrofoam.

Dr. Chris Rinke said they made their finding after giving

the omnivorous worms different diets over a three-week period, with some offered styrofoam (also

known as expanded polystyrene foam or EPS), some bran and others placed on a fasting diet.



Scientists at Australia's University of Queensland have now discovered that superworms—the larvae of *Zophobas morio* darkling beetles—are eager to dine on the substance, and their gut enzymes could hold the key to higher recycling rates. **PHOTO: PHYS.ORG/XINHUA**

The worms, which originated in tropical regions of Central and South America, are used to devouring nearly everything they can find including rotten fruit and vegetables or decaying animal remains.

"We found the superworms not only survived but even had marginal weight gains," Rinke said, adding that their ability to consume the plastic was due to their having a particular bacterial enzyme in their gut.

"Superworms are like mini recycling plants, shredding the polystyrene with their mouths and then feeding it to the bacteria in their gut," Rinke said.

Speaking to Xinhua on Friday, the microbiologist said the next goal would be to replicate the worm enzyme in the laboratory which could then be used in combination with microbes to create "high-value compounds" such as bioplastics, which are made from biological substances rather than petroleum.

Rinke said that ultimately it would be preferable if governments banned the use of environmentally unfriendly polystyrenes, which contain cancer-causing chemicals, but in the meantime, there were many opportunities for the biodegradation of plastic waste in the recycling process. —Xinhua

PANDEMIC WORLD

NEWS IN BRIEF

US to end COVID-19 testing requirement for int'l travellers

THE United States will end the COVID-19 testing requirement for air travellers entering the country starting Sunday, the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention said, deciding to lift a measure that has been in place for more than a year amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Overseas travellers have been required to provide proof of a negative coronavirus test result – initially within three days, and currently within one day – before boarding a flight to the United States. But the pandemic has now shifted to “a new phase,” due to the widespread uptake of vaccines and the availability of effective therapeutics, the CDC said Friday.

“Each of these measures has contributed to lower risk of severe disease and death across the United States. As a result, this requirement which was needed at an earlier stage in the pandemic may be withdrawn,” it said. Effective on Sunday at 12:01 am, air passengers will not need to get tested and show a COVID-19 test result or documentation of recovery from the disease prior to boarding a flight to the United States.—Kyodo

Ethiopia launches new COVID-19 vaccination campaign to boost inoculation

THE Ethiopian government has launched a new COVID-19 vaccination campaign to boost inoculations and control the spread of the pandemic.

State-affiliated Fana Broadcasting Corporate, citing Dereje Duguma, Ethiopia's State Minister of Health, reported on Saturday that the number of infected people who are going to the Intensive Care Unit has been increasing over the past month in Ethiopia.

The state minister said that the dynamic nature of the virus coupled with lax precautionary measures by citizens are the major factors exacerbating the infection rate during the past month.

The East African country, which has so far administered more than 29.7 million COVID-19 vaccine doses, reported 736 new COVID-19 cases over the past 24 hours, taking the national count to 477,742 as of Saturday as the death toll stood at 7,516, according to the latest figures from the Ministry of Health.—Xinhua

Random COVID-19 testing in Canadian airports to be suspended

THE Canadian federal government announced Friday that it will suspend mandatory random COVID-19 testing at all airports for vaccinated travellers starting 11 June to reduce traveller wait times.

Between 11 June and 30 June, mandatory randomized testing at Canadian airports will be “temporarily suspended” and unvaccinated travellers will still to be tested on-site, Transport Canada said in a statement.

“The Government of Canada recognizes the impact that significant wait times at some Canadian airports are having on travellers. We continue to work with airports, airlines, baggage



Air Canada planes grounded at the Toronto's Pearson Airport. PHOTO: AFP / FILE

handlers, and other partners to implement solutions to reduce delays as we approach the summer peak season,” the statement

said. According to the statement, as of 1 July, all testing, including for unvaccinated travellers, will be performed off-site.—Xinhua

Beijing delays school reopenings after new Covid outbreak



Students wait to receive doses of COVID-19 vaccine at the Hangtian Campus of the Beijing Yuying School in Beijing, capital of China, on 21 August 2021. PHOTO: XINHUA/REN CHAO

MOST children in Beijing will not return to school next week as originally planned, Chinese

officials said on Saturday, after an emerging Covid-19 outbreak prompted authorities to partly

reverse a decision to resume in-person teaching.

China is the last major economy still committed to a zero-Covid strategy, stamping out new cases with a combination of targeted lockdowns, mass testing and lengthy quarantines.

But virus clusters in recent months have put that approach under strain. The megacity of Shanghai was forced into a gruelling months-long lockdown and in the capital Beijing, schools were shuttered and residents were ordered to work from home.

Authorities in Beijing eased many curbs earlier this week, but dozens of infections linked to a bar have led authorities to tighten some restrictions again.—AFP

Pope Francis backs waivers on intellectual property rights for vaccines



AHEAD of the 12th World Trade Organization (WTO) ministerial conference, Pope Francis has extended support for waiving intellectual property rights for COVID-19 vaccines and asked the UN body to adopt measures to ensure access to coronavirus shots for all.

Demonstrators at the National Mall on 6 May 2021 call on the United States to commit to a global coronavirus vaccination plan that includes sharing vaccine formulas with the world. PHOTO: SAUL LOEB/ AFP

As the Covid-19 pandemic has devastating consequences across the globe, health experts have demanded that Covid-19 vaccines should be a universal common good. Besides this, hundreds of civil society organizations around the world urging support for the TRIPS waiver, a measure that would expand access to lifesaving vaccines and other health products.

However, the EU has opposed India and South Africa's proposal at the WTO to temporarily waive certain intellec-

tual property rules under the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement). “I add my voice to that of the Pan-American and Pan-African Committees of Judges for Social Rights in calling on the @WTO to adopt measures to ensure access to Covid-19 vaccines for all, especially the peoples of Africa,” Pope Francis said in a tweet. “Equitable access to safe and effective vaccines is fundamental to saving lives and livelihoods. Africa must not be left behind.—ANI

ECONOMY WORLD

Hungary defends petrol price cap against EU criticism

HUNGARIAN Prime Minister Viktor Orban on Friday defended a cap on petrol prices that the EU has described as discriminatory, saying that runaway inflation and economic fallout from the war in Ukraine justified it.

“We hope the EU sees that there is an extraordinary situation,” Orban said during a radio interview.

With inflation in Hungary reaching a 20-year-high in May and the war in Ukraine impacting the country’s economy, such “extraordinary measures” were necessary, the leader argued.

Orban — who imposed a state of emergency in Hungary late last month citing the challenges posed by the war — has frequently clashed with Brussels.



Cars wait in line at a gas station in Budapest, Hungary on 27 May, where cars with Hungarian plates may buy fuel at government-capped prices, while cars with foreign number plates pay market prices. **PHOTO: ATTILA KISBENEDEK/AFP**

Orban said that without the cap — introduced last November — of 480 forints (€1.21) per litre, petrol prices would be between 700 and 800 forints, as elsewhere in Europe.

Budapest said last month that the price cap would only apply to cars with Hungarian licence plates to prevent cross-border “fuel tourism”.

But “the difference in treatment seems to amount to indirect discrimination,” Thierry Breton, the EU’s internal markets commissioner, said in a letter sent to Budapest this week and seen by AFP. Breton suggested that the measure “might constitute a violation of EU law” and lead to infringement proceedings against Hungary. To fund a range of price caps on energy and foodstuffs, Hungary has also imposed a windfall tax on companies’ “extra profits”, mainly targeting the banking and energy sectors, but also airlines.—AFP

US keeps Japan on currency monitoring list, warns of intervention

THE US Treasury Department said Friday that Japan remains on a list of countries it monitors over potentially “unfair” currency practices, while noting that foreign exchange intervention should only take place in “very exceptional” cases amid the rapid weakening of the yen against the US dollar.

In a semiannual report to Congress on currency manipulation, the department named

12 economies on its “monitoring list” — China, Japan, South Korea, Germany, Italy, India, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Taiwan, Vietnam and Mexico. All except China (Taipei) and Vietnam were on the list in the December 2021 report.

The department assesses whether a country has manipulated its currency exchange rates to gain an unfair trade advantage through three criteria — the size of trade surplus with the United

States, the size of current account surplus as a share of gross domestic product, and the extent of intervention in foreign exchange markets.

On Japan, the report said the country has met two of the three criteria in every report since April 2016, having “material current account surpluses combined with significant bilateral trade surpluses with the United States.” —Kyodo

WTO negotiators finalise key texts on fishing, Covid jabs

LONG-SOUGHT WTO agreements on fisheries subsidies and a Covid vaccine patent waiver moved a step closer to completion Saturday after negotiators finalised texts for ministerial

review, but significant obstacles remained in hammering out a final deal.

Diplomats have been in round-the-clock talks to hammer out texts on several thorny

topics before the World Trade Organization’s first high-level meeting in five years, where trade ministers and officials from 164 countries have four days starting Sunday to try and get the negotiations across the finish line.

It takes place against the backdrop of the Ukraine-Russia war and fears of a global food crisis as a result of the conflict.

The global trade body announced in the early hours Saturday that a draft text on a long elusive deal banning subsidies favouring overfishing had been handed over to the ministers.

They will be tasked with ironing out the final sticking points towards a deal decades in the making. —AFP



The global trade body announced in the early hours Saturday that a draft text on a long elusive deal banning subsidies favouring overfishing had been handed over to the ministers. **PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK/AFP**

NEWS IN Brief

17 states elected into UN Economic and Social Council for three-year term

SEVENTEEN states were elected Friday into the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the coordinating body for the economic and social work of UN agencies and funds, for a three-year term.

The states were elected by secret ballot with a two-thirds majority of the member states present and voting in the UN General Assembly.

Elected were Botswana, Cape Verde, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea from African states; China, Laos, Qatar, South Korea from Asia-Pacific states; Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica from Latin America and Caribbean states; Denmark, Greece, New Zealand, Sweden from Western European and other states; Slovakia and Slovenia from Eastern European states.—Xinhua

Turkey sees 3rd fuel hike in a week amid currency depreciation

TURKISH consumers on Saturday were struck by the third round of fuel price hike in a week, as a volatile Turkish currency took its toll on the economy, which relies largely on imports.

The per litre gasoline price rose by 2.18 liras (about 0.12 US dollars) to nearly 28.5 liras across the country, Birgun daily reported, reflecting an almost 268 per cent increase in fuel prices compared with a year ago.

The Turkish lira meanwhile is on the way to reaching an all-time low it set in late December last year, with one dollar traded at 17.12 Turkish liras on Saturday. The currency’s dramatic decline comes together with ever-increasing inflation, which saw a 24-year high in May.

The lira had briefly hit its record low of around 18 in late December 2021 when Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced his government would keep cutting interest rates to sustain the economy.

Erdogan said earlier this week that Turkey will further cut interest rates as a way to increase production and exports.—Xinhua

Turkey bets on modern cruise hub to boost tourism

A state-of-the-art port in Istanbul with an underground terminal, a celebrity chef's restaurant and a shopping centre, welcomes yet another 5,000-passenger cruise ship, bringing more cash to Turkey's struggling tourism industry.

Hit hard by Covid, Turkey's tourism sector could get a shot in the arm from the revenue generated at Galataport, which opened in 2021 — a year later than planned due to the pandemic.

The port could also provide a boost to an

economy that has been weighed down by double-digit inflation and a currency in free fall, though the project has drawn criticism over the destruction of historical monuments and the potential environmental impact.

Figen Ayan, chief port officer at Galataport, said "ships began to arrive one after the other" after the facility opened in October.

"Galataport has become the face of tourism," she told AFP. — AFP



Critics say the gentrification of the area destroyed old neighbourhoods and posed a risk to the environment. PHOTO: AFP

Queue chaos at Stockholm airport as people rush to travel

INBOUND traffic to the main international airport of the Swedish capital was diverted on Saturday as the main terminal was overcrowded with massive queues at the security gates.

Already at 4:30 am, road traffic to Terminal 5 of Stockholm Arlanda International Airport was temporarily diverted. Later, it was decided that the express train between Stockholm City and Arlanda Airport would not stop at the terminal, Swedish Television (SVT) reported.

According to Swedavia, the company that runs Arlanda Airport, the

congestion is due to a sharp increase in passenger numbers following the COVID-19 pandemic. Also, the company has had trouble recruiting and training staff to man the security gates. The security vetting of new employees is another bottleneck.

Although this has been a problem for the last few weeks, the situation was extraordinary on Saturday and Swedavia predicted that the congestion would persist.

"There will be a high load on Arlanda this summer. If you can check-in digitally, you should do so. — Xinhua

Norway to label products from Israeli settlements

ISRAEL on Saturday condemned a decision by Norway to follow the European Union in adopting a labelling scheme to identify products from Israeli settlements in areas occupied by Israel including.

A statement from Israel's foreign ministry said Norway's new position "will adversely affect bilateral relations between Israel and Norway, as well as Norway's relevance to promoting relations between Israel and the Palestinians".

The ministry was referring to Norway's longstanding role as a mediator in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Norway's social democrat government announced its new policy in a statement released on Friday, saying it was not enough to label products



An Israeli settler prepares olive oil containers at the Achia Olive press factory in the Jewish settlement of Shilo in the occupied West Bank. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

coming from the occupied territories as Israeli.

The measure mainly concerns imports of wine, olive oil, fruits and vegetables, and will apply to products from the occupied West Bank "including East Jerusalem" and oc-

cupied areas of the Golan heights, Oslo said.

Foreign Minister Anniken Huitfeldt stressed in an interview with Norwegian news agency NTB that this in no way constituted a boycott of Israel.

"Norway has good

relations with Israel," she added. "That must continue."

The European Commission recommended its member states follow this practice in 2015, a decision confirmed by the EU's European Court of Justice in 2019. — AFP

US inflation rockets upward, peak unknown

THE US inflation has hit the highest point since December 1981, begging the question of when the worst price hikes in 40 years will peak and drop.

May saw inflation further accelerate, with prices climbing 8.6 per cent from the same time last year, according to Friday's monthly Consumer Price Index (CPI) figures from the US Bureau of Labour Statistics.

Stock markets took a dive on Friday, as their hopes were dashed for a quick end to ongoing inflation.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average lost 880 points and the S&P 500 dropped nearly 117 points. The Nasdaq declined 414 points by end of trading Friday.

"Today's very disappointing inflation numbers leave the Fed (US Feder-

al Reserve) little room to take its foot off the monetary policy brake" and regain control over inflation, Desmond Lachman, resident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute and a former official at the International Monetary Fund, told Xinhua.

Indeed, some fear the Fed's interest rate hikes could trigger a recession that would further hammer markets — which

have taken a shellacking in recent months — as well as Americans' wallets.

There remains no consensus among economists on the pace at which price increases will peak and recede.

Some believe prices will inch their way downward at a snail's pace. Others believe inflation will start to soften over the next two or three months. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (057N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (057N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **13-6-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ZIM AUSTRALIA VOY.NO. (07S/N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ZIM AUSTRALIA VOY.NO. (07S/N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **13-6-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S GOLD STAR LINES PTE LTD

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Most of Britain's Monkeypox cases are in London, as case numbers reach 366

AN expert virologist reinforced the need to avoid intimate contact Saturday as the number of Monkeypox cases in Britain reached 366.

UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) published its first technical briefing Friday on the ongoing Monkeypox outbreak following detailed interviews with patients which are helping health experts to understand transmission and to determine how to target interventions.

Professor Paul Hunter of the University of East Anglia told Xinhua Saturday the briefing by the UKHSA highlighted the risks of the disease being spread.

“Transmission of Monkey-



A man cycles past cherry blossom trees in Battersea Park, in London, on 22 March 2022 at the start of the spring season. **PHOTO: JUSTIN TALLIS / AFP**

pox seems to be almost exclusively being transmitted by close

and intimate contact,” Hunter said, “so people should avoid

contact with people who could be infected, especially if they

have a rash.”

In its end of week update UKHSA said a further 43 additional cases of Monkeypox in England, one additional case in Scotland and one additional case in Wales have been identified. It brought to 366 the total number confirmed of cases in Britain as of 9 June.

There are currently 348 confirmed cases in England, 12 in Scotland, two in Northern Ireland and four in Wales.

The agency said of the cases interviewed, 81 per cent were known to be London residents and 99 percent were male. The average age of confirmed cases in Britain is 38 years old. — Xinhua

Large fire rips through Bangladeshi train compartments

A large fire ripped through train compartments in Bangladesh's Sylhet region, some 240 km north-east of the capital Dhaka, on Saturday, sending a ball of flame and plumes of black smoke billowing

up high into the sky.

There were no immediate reports of anyone being injured.

Farid Ahmed, an official of Sylhet's Sreemangal Railway Station, told reporters that train

communication on Dhaka-Sylhet route remained suspended for hours as the fire broke out on the train. According to the official, the fire erupted at the Sylhet-bound “Parabat Express”

train at around 12:45 p.m. local time (0645 GMT) on Saturday and it spread quickly.

The blaze, which had reportedly started from the power car of the train, was brought under

control after one and half hours.

At least two compartments of the train were completely burnt in the fire. The cause of the incident could not be known immediately.— Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Serbia, Germany disagree over imposing sanctions on Russia

SERBIAN President Aleksandar Vucic and visiting German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on Friday disagreed on the necessity to impose sanctions on Russia after their discussion on the Ukraine crisis.

The German Chancellor “in a decisive, clear and sharp manner” asked Serbia to join Western sanctions against Russia, and even offered help for the construction of energy capacities, Vucic told a press conference after their meeting here. —Xinhua

Czech man killed in eastern Ukraine: ministry

A Czech man has died in the eastern Ukrainian Donbas region occupied by Russia, Foreign Minister Jan Lipavsky said on Saturday.

“The embassy in Kyiv is dealing with the situation, we are trying to contact the family,” Lipavsky told reporters. “The man's body should be taken to the Kharkiv area tomorrow,” he added after meeting his Turkish counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu in Prague. — Xinhua



Ukrainian troops fire surface-to-surface rockets towards Russian positions at a front line in the eastern Ukrainian Donbas region **PHOTO: ARIS MESSINIS/AFP**

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Russia completes massive military drills in Pacific

THE Russian military wrapped up large-scale exercises in the Pacific Ocean on Friday, according to an official statement, reported Xinhua.

During the week-long drills, more than 300 combat exercises were conducted, 170 of which involved the practical use of weapons, the Russian Defence Ministry said in a statement.

The sailors practiced searching submarines, firing artillery and striking targets with high-precision sea-based weapons.

More than 40 warships

and support vessels as well as about 20 aircraft of the Russian

Pacific Fleet participated in the exercises.— Xinhua



Combat ships and support vessels of the Russian Navy are taking part in the Ocean Shield 2019 drills in the Baltic Sea. **PHOTO: TASS/XINHUA/FILE**

In Kyiv, EU chief promises a signal on Ukraine's bid next week

THE European Commission will provide a clear signal next week on Ukraine's EU candidate status bid, its chief Ursula von der Leyen said Saturday, as fighting raged in the east and south of the country.

Making a surprise visit to Kyiv, von der Leyen said talks

she held with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky “will enable us to finalise our assessment by the end of next week” — the first time the bloc has publicly given a sense of timing.

Zelensky has been pressing for rapid admission into the European Union as a way of

reducing Ukraine's geopolitical vulnerability, which was brutally exposed by Russia's February 24 invasion.

But officials and leaders in the bloc caution that, even with candidacy status, actual EU membership could take years or even decades.—AFP

Thousands of protesters demand action on US gun violence

THOUSANDS of people took to the streets in the United States yesterday to push for action on the devastating gun violence plaguing the country, where Republican politicians have repeatedly blocked efforts to enact stricter firearms laws.

Protesters of all ages streamed onto the National Mall in Washington, where activists placed more than 45,000 white vases holding flowers – one for each person killed by a firearm in the United States in 2020.

“Protect People Not Guns,” said one sign held by a protester near the Washington Monument.

“Fear Has No Place In Schools,” read another.

Two horrific shootings last month — one at a Texas elementary school that killed 19 children and two teachers, and another at a New York supermarket that left 10 black people dead — helped spur the rallies, organised by March For Our Lives.

The student-led organisa-



Demonstrators join the “March for Our Lives” rally in Los Angeles, California, on 11 June 2022. Protesters are demonstrating across the US for tighter firearms laws to curb devastating gun violence plaguing the country. PHOTO: AFP

tion, founded by survivors of a shooting at a high school in Parkland, Florida, held a rally that drew hundreds of thousands of people to the nation’s capital in

March 2018.

Four years later, the demonstration was marked by frustration at the lack of progress.

“Enough is enough” rang

out repeatedly from the podium, with speakers including Parkland survivor X Gonzalez and Martin Luther King Jr’s granddaughter Yolanda King.—AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Canada confirms 112 cases of monkeypox

CHIEF Public Health Officer of Canada Theresa Tam on Friday confirmed a total of 112 cases of monkeypox in the country.

Speaking at a health briefing, the top doctor said that these confirmed cases had been reported nationally, including one case in British Columbia, four in Alberta, nine in Ontario and 98 in Quebec.

“The National Microbiology Lab, or NML, is also performing confirmatory testing on a number of other suspected cases. Therefore, we are preparing for more confirmed cases in the coming days and weeks,” Tam said.

She said that among the cases for whom information is available, ages ranged from 20 to 63 and all cases to date are male, and this virus can “spread to anyone” through close contact with an infected person.—AFP

UK judge allows government to start sending asylum seekers to Rwanda

A British judge on Friday rejected an emergency bid to block deportation flights of asylum-seekers to Rwanda set to start next week under an agreement with the east African country, ruling politicians must manage immigration policy.

The UK government intends to fly the first planeload of claimants to Rwanda on June 14, after agreeing the plan with Kigali in a bid to deter illegal migrants from undertaking per-

ilious crossings of the Channel by boat.

Refugee rights groups and a trade union representing UK Border Force personnel challenged the plan in London’s High Court, seeking an injunction against Tuesday’s inaugural flight and any beyond then.

They argue that the plan violates asylum seekers’ human rights, and say the government cannot justify its claim that Rwanda is a safe destination.

But delivering his decision after a one-day hearing, judge Jonathan Swift said it was in the “public interest” for Interior Minister Priti Patel “to be able to implement immigration control decisions”.

However, Swift gave permission for his ruling to be appealed, suggesting Court of Appeal judges would hear the case on Monday, whilst also setting the date for a fuller two-day High Court hearing next month.

Disappointed

The rights groups bidding to block the policy said they were “disappointed” with the decision.

“It is extremely worrying that despite these legal challenges and widespread concern, the government remain determined to press ahead with the removal of people to Rwanda as soon as next week,” Enver Soloman, chief executive of the Refugee Council, said.—AFP

Iran condemns missile attack on Damascus, vows support to Syria

IRANIAN Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian has condemned the recent Israeli missile attack on the Syrian capital Damascus and vowed his country’s continued support for the Arab state, Tasnim news agency reported on Saturday.

During a phone conversation with his Syrian counterpart Faisal al-Mekdad on Friday, Amir Abdollahian said “Israel’s attacks on Syria’s infrastructure are not only in violation of the country’s sovereignty and territorial integrity, but also contravene international laws and humanitarian principles.”

He also denounced “the silence of the international community and regional organizations,” stressing that the Islamic republic will continue the support to the Syrian government and nation.

For his part, al-Mekdad expressed Syria’s gratitude to Iran, stressing resistance to “occupation and aggression.”— Xinhua

Norwegian climber sets her sights on 14 peaks record

A Norwegian climber is on track to beat the time record for summiting the globe’s 14 highest peaks, part of her quest to change how the mountaineering world views women athletes.

Kristin Harila has already climbed six mountains over 8,000 metres (26,250 feet) high, including Everest, in the last two months.

The 36-year-old hopes to match or surpass Nepali adventurer Nirmal Purja and his groundbreaking 2019 record of six months and six days, an achievement that smashed the previous record and was profiled in a pop-

ular Netflix documentary.

“In history and until now, it has been the strong macho men going out climbing mountains,” Harila told AFP this week.

“When I talk to people that are not in this sport, they believe that men are more capable than women... If we are going to change, we need to get attention and show that women are just as capable.”

Male climbers and guides far outnumber women in the top tier of the sport, with only a handful of women mountaineers getting attention and sponsorships for their expeditions.—AFP



Norwegian mountaineer Kristin Harila (L), seen here at the summit of Mount Makalu, is on track to beat the time record for summiting the world’s 14 highest peaks. PHOTO: SK EXPEDITIONS/AFP

Most of Britain's Monkeypox cases are in London, as case numbers reach 366
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SPORT

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

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

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

3. Social affairs

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

Lethargic England lacking sharpness, says Southgate after Italy stalemate



England manager Gareth Southgate blamed a run of three games without a win to start their Nations League campaign on a lack of sharpness in front of goal after a 0-0 draw against Italy on Saturday. **PHOTO: AFP**

ENGLAND manager Gareth Southgate blamed a run of three games without a win to start their Nations League campaign on a lack of sharpness in front of goal after a 0-0 draw against Italy on Saturday. A rematch of last year's Euro 2020 final took place in front of just 3,000 school children in Wolverhampton as England served a one-match behind closed doors punishment for the chaos that ensued that night at Wembley last July.

Southgate labelled that situation as an "embarrassment" for the country and believed the lack of atmosphere played a part in another Nations League clash lacking verve at the end of an exhausting season.

England's only goal in the last three games came from Har-

ry Kane's late penalty to salvage a 1-1 draw away to Germany on Tuesday. "We had two or three really good chances we need to score, but just lacked that sharpness in front of goal," said Southgate. "You can see when you are pushing like we were in the second half, you don't have any crowd to help you or put the opposition under any pressure."

Since beating the Three Lions on penalties to become champions of Europe, things have gone wrong for Italy as they missed out on a second consecutive World Cup. However, Roberto Mancini's men have bounced back to top Group A3 with five points from three games. England remain bottom with two points, behind Hungary and Germany, who drew 1-1 in Budapest.—AFP

Myanmar team eliminated from group stage of 2023 Asian Cup Qualifiers

THE second day of the third round of the 2023 AFC Asian Cup Qualifiers was held on 11 June and Myanmar team suffered 0-2 loss to Kyrgyzstan.

The Myanmar team suffered two consecutive defeats and had already been knocked out from the group stage.

Myanmar head coach Antoine Hey also appeared in the defensive style of this match with his favorite players.

The Myanmar team played defensively and played counter-attack, so there were few chances for opponents to score.

The Myanmar team had three chances to

score but could not use them and lost by two goals.

Kyrgyzstan were able to put pressure throughout the match, but due to their misunderstandings, they had few chances to score and were satisfied with only two goals.

Miami alone scored the winning goals for Kyrgyzstan in the 25th and 45th minutes.

Myanmar and Singapore lost two games in a row and both teams have said goodbye to the tourney with one game left to play.

The two teams will meet in the final group match on 14 June.—Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM



Myanmar team Captain Hlaing Bo Bo (red) eyes the ball during the AFC Asian Cup Qualifier against Kyrgyzstan on 11 June 2022. **PHOTO:MFF**

A US district judge has dismissed a rape lawsuit against football superstar Cristiano Ronaldo, castigating the legal team behind the complaint. **PHOTO: AFP**



US judge dismisses rape suit against football star Ronaldo

A US district judge has dismissed a rape lawsuit against football superstar Cristiano Ronaldo, castigating the legal team behind the complaint.

Judge Jennifer Dorsey threw out

the case brought by Kathryn Mayorga, a former model and teacher, who alleged she was assaulted by the Portuguese soccer star in a Las Vegas hotel room in 2009.

The 37-year-old Manchester United player has always denied the allegations and maintained that the relationship with Mayorga was completely consensual.—AFP