

NATIONAL

Department of Fisheries puts fingerlings into Jaing River, Kayin State

PAGE-2

NATIONAL

SAC members attend inter-state/region Taekwondo finals, awards ceremony

PAGE-3

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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.

Government Peace Talks Team meets PNLO delegation

THE discussion between the government's Peace Talks Team and the delegation led by Vice-Chairperson-1 of the Pa-O National Liberation Organization-PNLO was organized in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The meeting was attended by State Administration Council Member National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee Chairman Union Minister at the Government Office (1) Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, in his capacity as the leader of the Peace Talks Team, SAC Member Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun, NSPNC Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naung, Vice-Chairperson-1 U Khun Htun Tin of the Pa-O National Liberation Organization-PNLO, Joint General Secretary (1) Khun Min Thein and Central Committee member Khun Zwe Hto.

During the meeting, Peace Talks Team Leader Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and PNLO Vice-Chairperson-1 U Khun Htun Tin made greeting speeches. The attendees discussed peace issues and development-related matters. The discussion will be continued on 18 June. — MNA



The discussion between the government Peace Talks Team and the Vice-Chairperson-1 led PNLO delegation is in progress in Nay Pyi Taw on 17 June 2022.

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL

Knowledge-Sharing Programme on "Maintaining, Transferring and Taking Action for Losses of State-owned Fixed Assets" held

PAGE-4

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Pork and chicken prices surge in the market

PAGE-5



LOCAL BUSINESS

Grape cultivation thriving in Natmuk town

PAGE-11



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*

Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law enacted

THE State Administration Council of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar promulgated the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law as the law number 41/2022 of the State Administration Council on the 3rd Waning of Nayon 1384 ME (16 June 2022) under Section 419 of the Constitution.

The law is constituted of 66 Sections in 12 chapters. The chapter-1 mentions definitions such as trafficking in persons, exploitation, forced to prostitution, forced to sexual measures in any way, forced labour or service, forced to slave or slavery labour, forced to work under attachment of debts, forced to marriage, forced to beg-

ging, adoption of children under cheating and forced to being pregnant, in addition to transnational crime, controlled delivery, the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division, enforcement officer and community-based human trafficking scrutiny body.

Moreover, Chapter III mentions the formation of the Central Committee for Prevention of Trafficking in Person, the release of standard operation procedure-SOP, duties and functions assigned for the prevention of trafficking in person and trafficked victim protection work committee, international relations and cooperation work

committee, legal affairs and prosecution work committee, human trafficked victim repatriation, reunification and rehabilitation work committee and other necessary work committees and regional prevention bodies.

Chapter VIII states preventive measures, searching, arresting and confiscation of evidence objects such as the State treasure, and exchange of bilateral assistance among member countries. Chapter X expresses crime and punishment, Chapter XI, setting up the fund, maintenance, spending and management, and Chapter XII general measures. — MNA

U Chit Swe appointed as Ambassador of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Thailand

THE Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed Ambassador U Chit Swe, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Thailand. —MNA

Department of Fisheries puts fingerlings into Jaing River, Kayin State



THE Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation have been adding fish hatchlings into the water, rivers, creeks and lakes of the country annually for local fish consumption and resources. On 17 June, the Department of Fisheries, Kay-

The fingerling-adding event is in action in Hpa-an.

in State added fish fingerlings into the Thanhlei river pumping station, Hpa-an District yesterday.

Kayin State Chief Minister U Saw Myint Oo, Chief Justice of Kayin State High Court Daw Khin Swe Tun, the state cabinet ministers, officials and local people of Thanhlei village and nearby villages attended the fish-adding ceremony and released 50,000 Rohu fingerlings and 150,000 Swamp barb fingerlings, totalling 200,000 fingerlings into the Jaing River.

Afterwards, the chief minister and members discussed conditions of crop cultivation in irrigated area with Hpa-an District Administrator U Aung Lwin and officials who presented the status of the double-cropping and water distribution system that was included in the affected area of 802 acres. The chief minister gave instructions to facilitate the irrigated area for farmers to apply double-cropping and mixed-cropping and viewed the crop fields. — Saw Myo Min Thein — (IPRD)/GNLM

7 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 17 June, total figure rises to 613,474

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **613,474** after **seven** new cases were reported on 17 June 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **592,480** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll still stands at **19,434** without more casualties.—MNA

Tatmadaw will implement harmoniously with the people for national politics

WE, soldiers, always have to safeguard our three main national causes: Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of the National Solidarity, Perpetuation of National Sovereignty as a national duty for the Union in which lives over 100 ethnic people. National affairs mean safeguarding national interests, and religion, religion, traditional culture and customs. Let the nation be led by any political system or any government, as our national policy, Tatmadaw has to maintain the Three Main National Causes concerning all nationalities. I would like to urge that Tatmadaw will implement harmoniously with the people for national politics.

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

SAC members attend inter-state/region Taekwondo finals, awards ceremony



The trophy is presented to winning awardees.

THE 2022 State and Region Taekwondo finals and the award-presenting ceremony were held yesterday afternoon at Wunna Theikdi Gymnasium (B).

The ceremony was attended by Members of the State Administration Council: Mahn Nyein Maung, Jeng Phang Naw Taung, U Sai Lone Hsai, Saw Daniel, Dr Banyar Aung Moe and U Shwe Kyein, Union Ministers U Myint Kyaing, Dr Myo Thein Kyaw, Dr Thet Khaing Win and U Min Thein Zan, Deputy Ministers U Kyaw Myo Htut, U San Lwin, U Aung Kyaw Tun, Dr Aung Zeya and U Thant Zin, the directors-general, deputy directors-general, officials from the Myanmar Taekwondo Federation, administrators, coaches from the participating teams

and athletes.

At the third-day matches, Aung Htet Myat (Yangon) and Shine Yawai Phyo (Ayeyawady) competed in the men's 54-58-kg category; Lin Htet Aung (Shan) and Myat Min Han (Yangon) in the men's 46-50-kg category; Aung Kaung Khant (Yangon) and Sai San Myint (Shan) in the men's 63-68-kg category; Su Su Win (Shan) and Chan Nyein Khin (Yangon) in the women's 40-43-kg category and Aung John Phyo (Ayeyawady) and Win Theingi Tun (Yangon) in the women's 40-kg event competed.

After the competitions, the award ceremony continued. The SAC members, the union ministers and the deputy ministers presented the winners with cash prizes and medals. — MNA

Union H&T Minister attends Mekong-Korea Cooperation Regional Forum, Use of Guest List Management System-GLMS

MEKONG Sub-region and the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Thailand jointly held a Mekong-Korea Regional Cooperation Forum yesterday morning in Bangkok.

The forum was attended by representatives from relevant governmental departments and embassies in Bangkok, and more than 50 international and regional research representatives, development partners, and universities. Union Minister Dr Htay Aung and officials from the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, representatives from the Myanmar Tourism Federation and its affiliated associations, and representatives from other member states and organizations attended the forum online.

The forum aims to examine the current status and direction of the Mekong Cooperation Framework, to review and evaluate integration recommenda-

tions between the Mekong and its partners and organizations under the Mekong-Korea Cooperation Programme, and to enhance cooperation between the Republic of Korea, Mekong member states and international partners. A total of more than 100 private/government representatives from the member countries attended the forum.

The forum discussed Mekong-based political and economic issues, such as international cooperation in the Mekong region and engagement with external partners, geopolitical strategic competition and future challenges, and interactions between international and outside organizations in the Mekong region. Representatives from relevant embassies, researchers and subject matter experts led the discussion, and the delegates had a frank discussion on what they wanted to know.



The Mekong-Korea Cooperation Regional Forum in progress.

At the meeting, the Union minister discussed the need to upgrade the current cooperation framework for the economic recovery of the Mekong countries in the post-COVID-19 period, conditions that could bridge the gap in tourism human resource development of Mekong member countries, in addition

to the Mekong-Korea Cooperation Framework for Tourism Development in the Greater Mekong Sub-region, the need for support from other development partners, as well as the cooperation of the tourism sector in the Mekong-Korea Cooperation Process in Myanmar.

In the afternoon, the Union



minister attended and addressed a coordination meeting on the use of the Guest List Management System (GLMS). After that, officials from the Ministry and officials from Myanmar Ease Net Co Ltd explained the use of the GLMS system and the participants discussed and advised. — MNA

MRTV, PPD hold ceremonies of monsoon tree-growing, releasing fingerlings

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn attended the ceremonies of 2022 monsoon tree-growing and releasing fingerlings at Nay Pyi Taw Printing Factory of the Printing and Publishing Department-PPD in Zeyathiri Township and MRTV in Tatkon Township yesterday.

First, Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn and wife Daw Khin Swe Win grew the Mahogany plant at Nay Pyi Taw Printing Factory.

Then, the deputy minister, the permanent secretary, departmental officials and wives grew teak sapling while the staff grew saplings.

A total of 200 saplings including teak, Ceylon ironwood, raintree, Mahogany, Senna si-



The monsoon tree-growing and fingerling-releasing event of MRTV and Printing and Publishing Department in progress.

amea and Mangosteen were planted at the Nay Pyi Taw Printing Factory during the event.

Then, the Union minister and party went to MRTV and

the Union Minister and wife grew star-flower saplings together with his wife.

The deputy minister and relevant officials also planted 1,600 saplings at the designated places.

Then, the Union minister and wife freed Taiwan catfish fingerlings into the fish farm.

The deputy minister and party freed 5,000 fingerlings.

Then, the Union minister met with the newscasters and staff of MRTV and highlighted the role of media in the current trend, the need to provide true news, apply for active and creative programmes and prioritize the youth sector.

Finally, he inspected the MRTV radio studio and 5.1 Surround Sound studio. —MNA

Knowledge-Sharing Programme on “Maintaining, Transferring and Taking Action for Losses of State-owned Fixed Assets” held

THE Knowledge-Sharing Programme No 16 on “Maintaining, Transferring and Taking Action for Losses of State-owned Fixed Assets” was held at 2 pm on 16 June at the Assembly Hall of the Office of the Auditor-General of

the Union, Nay Pyi Taw.

At the ceremony, Union Auditor-General Prof Dr Kan Zaw delivered an address, saying that the Knowledge-Sharing Programme has been successfully held 16 times; it aims at the

improvement in getting knowledge by sharing each other; as the Fixed Assets management is crucial, the Regulations on Financial management prescribe conducting the physical examination of the Fixed Assets of the

government departments and organizations at least once a year; the office of the Auditor-General of the Union has the responsibility to audit the maintaining, utilizing, recognizing, and disposal of State-owned assets according to the Union Auditor-General’s Law Section 11 (h); the auditing of fixed assets is included as a separate section when conducting the audit.

the fixed assets from the list, and taking action on losses, as well as experience in auditing the fixed assets.

Then, the permanent secretary, the director-general of Audit Department, the deputy permanent secretary, deputy directors-general, directors from Region/State Audit Offices and other attendees raised questions and exchanged knowledge and discussion.

The ceremony was attended by the permanent secretary, the deputy permanent secretary, the deputy directors-general (Admin/Audit), directors, deputy directors, assistant directors, staff officers, and senior auditors, totalling 400, not only from the Assembly Hall but also virtually from two training school rooms, the Myanmar Accountancy Council Office and Region/State Auditor-General Offices. —GNLM



Court sentences Mandalay Region ex-chief minister for bribery

THE Anti-Corruption Commission inspected the complaints against Mandalay Region’s former chief minister Dr Zaw Myint Maung.

According to the investigation, the ex-chief minister took a bribe of 300,000 Thai baht from a company that was permitted for the new satellite town project area and other affiliated farmlands in Mandalay Region, K65 million from a company that op-

erates Amarapura Urban Development Project and US\$100,000 from a business person. He also permitted the 0.0171 acre of land that are managed by the government for the Myingyan township NLD office in 2019 and 0.172 acre of land for the PyinOoLwin township NLD office by breaching the existing laws, rules and regulations. It caused over K343 million loss to the State budget.

He was charged under Sec-

tion 55 of the Anti-Corruption Law for five cases on 16 July 2021 at the Mandalay Region High Court.

The court sentenced him to 21 years of imprisonment for five cases under Section 55 of the Anti-Corruption Law yesterday. For the investigation on taking bribes, measures are being carried out to nationalize the undocumented over K900 million, US\$20,000 and 500,000 Thai baht. —MNA

Press Release on Matriculation Examination 2023

A matriculation examination will be held in 2023 for the students who failed the 2022 matriculation examination and did not take the exam for various reasons.

Department of Myanmar Examinations
Ministry of Education

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Over 350 gold mining blocks remain to pay taxes in Sagaing Region

FROM the 2018-2019 Financial Year (FY) until the 2020-2021 Financial Year, more than 350 small-scale and artisan gold mining blocks in Sagaing Region still remain to pay taxes to the State, according to the statement of the Sagaing Region Block Scrutiny Committee.

A total of 256 small-scale gold mining blocks and 98 artisan blocks in Khamti, Homalin, Phaungpyin, Katha, Bamauk, and Kyunhla townships in the Sagaing Region were approved by the Sagaing region government, and notification letters were sent to the companies/entrepreneurs of the gold mining blocks through the lawyers to pay the remaining taxes. The statement instructed them to pay K11.948 million each for a four-acre small-scale gold block and K1.147 million each for an acre artisan gold mining block as soon as possible.

Within one month of the 2022-2023FY, 275.35 troy- ounces (approximately 8.6 kilogrammes) were produced from blocks in regions and states, most of them from Shan State (South), according to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation. — TWA/GNLM



Within one month of the 2022-2023FY, 275.35 troy-ounces (approximately 8.6 kilogrammes) were produced from blocks in regions and states, most of them from Shan State (South).

Pork and chicken prices surge in the market

THE prices of chicken and pork including fish and prawns are high in the market and the people have to consider their rate of income and expenses, said housewives.

The pork price at the Lanmadaw Iron Market is K15,000 per viss, K14,000 per viss of pork and K14,000 per viss of special ribs this week, said Daw Hla Htay from Lanmadaw Township.

The pork belly price was only K10,000 per viss in April 2020, said Ko Hla Tin from Kyimyindine Township.

Although the prices are high, the sellers rely on the daily customers and restaurants, said pork seller Ma Myo Myo in the Mawtin market.

The pork prices in Mawgyun Township are K17,000 per viss while K15,000 per viss of pork belly, resident Daw Tin Win said.

“We sold 100 pigs daily in the

past. But now, we sell only 20 per day. The numbers of pork consumers decline. We transport to restaurants,” said a pig slaughterer.

The Myanmar chicken price is K12,000-13,000-14,000 per viss while K6,500 per viss of the CP at the Lanmadaw Iron Market.

The beef is priced at K18,000 per viss, K25,000 per viss of mutton and K20,000 or K30,000 per viss of lobster depending on their sizes.

“The freshwater shrimp is K14,000 per viss, Rakhine shrimp is K12,000 per viss while K8,000-10,000 per viss of mrigal fish. The catfish, fossil cat and snakehead have not entered the Yangon market yet. The price may be K15,000-16,000 per viss in other regions,” said a fish seller.

“At the supermarket, the finished meat is available. People can buy groundfish and meat by weight. They are clean. As they

are purified, the prices are higher than others,” said Ma Lin Lin from Pazundaung.

The supermarkets sell three chicken wings weighing 356 grammes at K1,994, pork weighing 408 grammes at K3,468 and beef weighing 268 grammes at K3,468.

During this year, the meat, fish, egg and cooking oil prices are higher than in previous years and so the daily expenses of families also become higher while their daily income is not on the rise.

Families with low incomes mainly rely on the cheap foodstuffs that affect their health.

If the people consume beans together with rice in their daily meals, they can get proper protein and they cannot be affected by the high prices of meat and fish, a market analyst said. — TWA/GNLM



A vendor is pictured selling fresh fish, prawns and chicken.

Over 46% of students pass 2022 Matriculation Exam nationwide

THE Ministry of Education has announced that 46.88 per cent of students passed the 2022 Matriculation Exam nationwide.

According to the pass result of the exam released on 17 June, Mon State has the most achievements, followed by Ayeyawady Region and Mandalay Region.

Of a total of 281,751 students who sat the exam, 132,077 students passed nationwide, making it a 46.88-per-cent success rate. In addition to sticking the pass list at the exam centres in respective townships, it is also available on the website of the Myanmar Examinations Department, www.myanmarexam.org. Furthermore, Myanma Radio Myanmar is also announcing the pass list of the exam centres in remote areas which do not have access to the internet. — TWA/GNLM

Public Notification

THE Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee was reconstituted under the State Administration Council's Order No 366/2021 dated 10.12.2021, and action is being taken effectively against illegal trade under the law.

The following telephone numbers, fax and email address can be reached to safely report information in connection with illegal trade.

Auto telephone number - 067 409 883
Mobile phone - 09 404339969
Fax - 067 409 886
Email address - antiillegaltradeinfo@gmail.com

Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee

2022 university entrance exam results announced in Nay Pyi Taw

THE 2022 matriculation examination was held from 31 March to 9 April and the results were announced at the respective exam centres across the nation and via the website of the Department of Myanmar Examinations yesterday.

Headmaster U Win Khine of No (6) BEHS in Nay Pyi Taw said, "There are 87 students who sat for the exam from our school and 41 passed the exam. The exam pass rate is 47.1 per cent. Two passed with six distinctions, one with five distinctions, one with four distinctions, two with three distinctions, two with two distinctions and five with one distinction each. We are satisfied with our exam results. The officials instructed that the schools must release the result at 6 am and the Department of Myanmar Examinations at its website at 4 am. Therefore, we conducted it in accordance with the directives. I want all the students to pass the exam. The balanced efforts of students, teachers and parents can make the students pass the exam. The exam pass rate of our school is higher than in previous years."



Students are seen looking into the matriculation exam results.

The department released the results of regions and states at www.myanmarexam.org at 4 am.

Maung Thet Paing Linn who passed the exam said, "I am so happy as I pass the exam and it happens like what I think. I have to choose the university depending on my marks. I thank all the teachers who taught me. I am also proud of my friends who pass the exam."

Another one said, "I wanted to sit for the exam when I knew that we can do so. I studied the lessons carefully and asked the teachers about the lessons that I didn't under-

stand. Now, I pass the exam. I thank the parents and teachers. I have to wait for the marks to choose the university."

The results of far-flung areas are also broadcasted on radio Myanmar and the people can contact the Department of Myanmar Examinations if the results are unclear.

A total of 16,109 students took the exam in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and 7,600 students passed with 47.18 per

cent of the exam pass rate.

A total of 3,454 students from four townships of Ottara District pass the exam showing 46.01 per-cent passing rate — 1,437 with distinctions and 2,017 without distinctions.

A total of 1,416 students from four townships of Dekkhina District pass the exam showing 48.20 per cent passing rate — 1,713 with distinctions and 2,433 without distinctions. — Aung Thant/ GNLM



Matriculation exam results are announced at the BEHS No 6 Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTOS: KO KO KYAW

National exam pass rate estimated at 49.92% in Mandalay Region

A total of 33,548 students participated in the matriculation exam for the 2021-2022 Academic Year in Mandalay Region and 16,747 passed the exam. The regional exam pass rate is 49.92 per cent.

Nationwide matriculation exams for the 2021-2022 Academic Year were held in March and April. The exam results came out yesterday (17 June), in line with COVID-19 health guidelines.

The exam results were released at 6 am at the respective schools across Mandalay City. Students came to school with hopes and excitement. The teachers assigned also guided the students to ensure compliance with the health guidelines.

Dr Than Htike Soe, a headmaster of No 16 Basic Education High School addressed that "67 out of 100 students who passed

the matriculation exam at our school. The pass rate is 67 per cent. There are a total of 34 students who passed the exam with flying colours; with 4 students awarded with six distinctions and another four with five distinctions. This is an achievement of our teachers as well. The students studied well with the support of parents and nailed the exam. I am so delighted with the results".

Most importantly, the top student in the national exam is from our school. Ma Eaint Hmu Khin who attended No 16 BEHS received top honours in the national exam and passed the exam with the highest score, he added.

She shared her success journey and how she studied hard every day with conscientiousness. "I am grateful to all the teachers I met throughout my entire school life. I had aims in life that I must pass the matriculation exam with flying colours and a high score. However, I did not expect to earn top marks on the national exam. I am on cloud nine for the achievement.

I want to convey my gratitude to my parents. Whichever results you receive, I encourage my fellow students to work hard for the future," she was quoted as saying.

Additionally, exam results were posted on the official website of the Department of Myanmar Examinations www.myanmarexam.org at 4 am on 17 June 2022.

Maung Min Hein who passed the exam with four distinctions stated, "I aimed to pass the exam with four distinctions before the exam. I am ecstatic as my expectation came true. Some of my friends also passed the exam with flying colours. I am also thankful that the exam results were released online in real-time. We can also see the exam results at the respective schools. My parents want me to get into a med school. I think students can overcome the exam with industriousness and persistence. I give my respect and credit to my parents."

U Zaw Oo, a parent, also expressed his overwhelming hap-

piness that "my boy made it with one distinction. I am extremely happy and content. I would like to express my gratitude to the teachers. I also appreciated the efforts of the heads of the State to organize the national exam in difficult times. I will support my boy to pursue the career he has always wanted. As far as I am concerned, I want him to follow in social welfare studies".

In addition to the online results service, the exam results were broadcast on Radio Myanmar to reach those students in remote locations with limited access to the internet.

Furthermore, 11 inmates (10 male and one female) from Mandalay Central Prison sat for the national exams and ten passed them. Six of them scored the exams with flying colours, including three inmates with three distinctions, one with two distinctions and two with one distinction. The pass rate is 90.9 per cent, said U Aung Myo Chun, deputy director of the Mandalay Central Prison. — Maung Aye Chan/GNLM



Students are looking into the matriculation exam result panel.

PHOTO NEWS

Matriculation examination results are announced nationwide.



Thanbyuzayat Township



Maei Town.



Mohnyin Township, Kachin State.



Lewe Township.



Kanbalu Township.



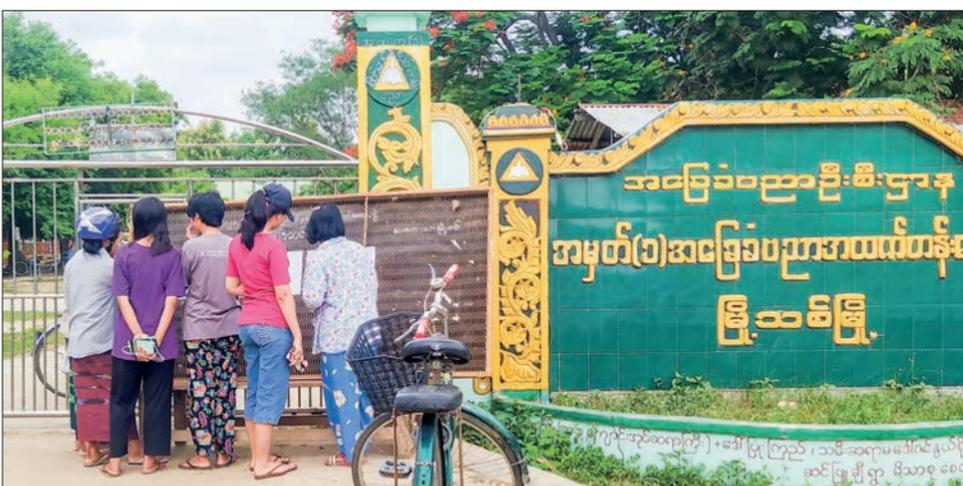
Shan State (South).



South Okkalapa Township.



Myingyan Township.



Myothit Township in Magway Region.



Chauk Township.

OPINION

ARTICLE Weather Report

Set a great expectation over livestock farms

Today's global countries are striving for booming their economy based on agriculture and livestock farming works which supply food to the peoples.

Those countries emphasize the operation of agriculture and livestock farms in order to supply food to the people and earn incomes from the export of surplus agricultural produce and livestock products in various forms to foreign partners.

People in Myanmar primarily consume meat and fish produced from chicken, pig, goat, cow and fish farms. In this regard, farmers are to always focus on the operation of livestock farms and seek expertise from livestock breeding experts on how to improve their farms. Only when livestock farmers apply the expertise of experts for running the livestock farms, will they have great success in the work process.

Now is the best time to initiate the better running of livestock farms in order to meet the demand of local people with the opportunities to export the surplus to the international market. But, these livestock farms must be operated on a commercial scale with a great expectation for achieving success.

Not only poultry but cattle farming work needs various kinds of farming works such as cage system, free herding system and herding under care system. Among them, the cage system is the best for fully feeding the animals.

Livestock farms must be run with the techniques and experts of livestock experts. As such, the role of livestock experts is crucial in the development of the livestock sector. Hence, the State leaders arrange for turning out of livestock professionals with the establishment of agriculture and livestock institutes, colleges and universities.

In fact, neighbouring countries of Myanmar have established a larger number of institutions than Myanmar that are turning out livestock professionals and technicians. Hence, Myanmar needs to produce many livestock professionals and technicians to be able to catch up with the development of livestock farming works from neighbouring countries.

That is why the government decided to establish the institutions to turn out an adequate number of agriculture and livestock professionals as human resources reliable for the agriculture and livestock sectors of Myanmar. Recently, the government released notifications to extend districts in the entire nation. The other day, the State leaders pledged to establish more and more livestock technological training schools in the newly-formed districts across the nation. Moreover, good news has come out that the outstanding trainees who graduated from the aforesaid training schools will be allowed to continuously learn high education in order to turn out highly-qualified human resources reliable for the livestock sector.

Now is the best time to initiate the better running of livestock farms in order to meet the demand of local people with the opportunities to export the surplus to the international market. But, these livestock farms must be operated on a commercial scale with a great expectation for achieving success.

Problems soar for airlines despite pandemic recovery

In the past few weeks, delays and cancellations caused by a lack of staff at airports and strikes for better pay have wreaked havoc upon travellers.

DESPERATE to put the coronavirus pandemic behind them, airlines will hold talks on Sunday ahead of a potential summer of chaos with shortages and strikes that could threaten their recovery.

While trade is roaring back to life, representatives from the aviation sector meeting for three days in Qatar have a packed agenda with multiple geopolitical crises including the war in Ukraine and the environment.

Cracks are already showing in the sector's recovery, though industry figures are optimistic about the future despite the issues.

In the past few weeks, delays and cancellations caused by a lack of staff at airports and strikes for better pay have wreaked havoc upon travellers.

The problems originate with the pandemic when airlines and

airports laid off thousands of workers during its worst-ever crisis.

Now, they are scrambling for workers.

Passenger numbers dropped by 60 percent in 2020, and in 2021 it was still down 50 percent. Airlines lost nearly \$200 billion over two years.

While some firms in the sector went bankrupt, others — backed often by states — have emerged from the pandemic with profits intact.

European airlines are excited about the prospect for a "beautiful summer", with some data showing booking rates higher than in 2019.

In the United States, the domestic market has almost returned to pre-pandemic levels.

"Airlines are generating cash again, which is a real positive," said Willie Walsh, head of the International Air Transport Association,

during a visit to Paris earlier this month.

The sector's morale was buoyant after "a very long and barren two years", he told reporters.

'Not up to speed'

The International Air Transport Association (IATA), which represents 290 airlines accounting for 83 per cent of global air traffic, will host its annual general meeting in Doha instead of Shanghai after record-high Covid case counts forced it to relocate the forum.

There will be cause for celebration during the event.

In terms of Revenue Passenger Kilometres (RPKs), a measure of total distance flown by paying passengers, activity in April reached 62.8 per cent compared with the same month in 2019.

That was the best figure since March 2020.

Domestic routes, meanwhile, hit 74.2 per cent in April, better than international markets which reached 56.6 per cent compared with the same period in 2019.

After the Easter holidays fiasco at European airports, Walsh admitted "the system is not up to speed", but vowed the issues would be addressed.

He was hopeful despite the war in Ukraine and its wider impacts, surging inflation and record prices for jet fuel.

Fuel makes up 25 to 30 per cent of companies' spending, and given the still-fragile state of airlines' balance sheets, higher costs will be passed on to customers to preserve their profits.

But the effects of Russia's war in Ukraine are already being felt.

European flights to Asia are constrained by long diverted routes to avoid Russian airspace

after having slapped heavy sanctions on Moscow.

Costly decarbonisation

With inflation eroding people's purchasing power, higher costs could weaken demand at a time when companies need to make serious investments to cut their carbon dioxide emissions.

The IATA pledged last October to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. The issue will be raised at a general assembly meeting of the International Civil Aviation Organization in the autumn, but a deal between countries is far from certain.

The IATA, which expects 10 billion air passengers annually by the middle of the century compared with 4.5 billion in 2019, refuses to consider any restrictions on growth in order to contain the effects of climate change.



Holidaymakers and travellers arrive at Terminal 2 of London Heathrow Airport in west London, on 6 April 2022. PHOTO: AFP

Commercial air travel, often the target of environmental activists, is responsible for between 2.5 and 3 per cent of global emissions.

Between "cleaner" planes and sustainable fuel, investment worth \$1.5 trillion over 30 years is needed to improve the sector's environmental impact. The costs will be most likely handed down to the customer; again. SOURCE: AFP

Thailand to drop mask rule, foreign tourist registration

Thailand's relaxation on facemasks comes after similar moves by regional peers including Cambodia and Singapore.

THAILAND announced Friday it would drop rules requiring people to wear masks outdoors and no longer require foreign visitors to register before travel, as Covid-19 cases fall and the kingdom seeks to lure tourists back.

Facemasks have been compulsory in public in Thailand, including outdoors, since mid-2021 when the Delta variant was running rampant.

But as the pandemic has subsided, the tourism-dependent kingdom has gradually relaxed covid restrictions in a bid to boost visitor numbers.

Thailand's relaxation on facemasks comes after similar moves by regional peers including Cambodia and Singapore.

Taweessin Visanuyothin, spokesman for the Thai Covid taskforce, said wearing masks



Tourists taking photos in front of James Bond Island in Phang Nga Bay northeast of Phuket on 1 November 2021, as the country prepares to welcome fully vaccinated visitors without quarantine. PHOTO: AFP

outside would become voluntary, but was still recommended in crowded areas, entertainment venues and on public transport.

He said the health ministry would announce further details of the mask relaxation, including when it would come into force.

On 1 July the government will also end the "Thailand Pass" system, under which foreign tourists had to register and show proof of vaccination and health insurance before they could fly to the kingdom.

Visitors will have to carry vaccine certificates or take Covid tests on arrival.

The move is seen as an attempt to bolster the sputtering economy, which has seen growth hammered by the pandemic and living costs rising.

There were more than 1.6 million foreign tourist arrivals during the first six months of 2022, with foreign tourist receipts logged at 99.7 billion baht, according to government data.

This compares with around 40 million foreign tourists visiting Thailand in 2019, the last year before the pandemic.

Daily Covid-19 cases have hovered below 3,500 in recent weeks, with the number of deaths registering below 50 a day for a month.

More than three quarters of the population has been jabbed with two vaccine doses, with more than 40 percent also getting a booster dose.

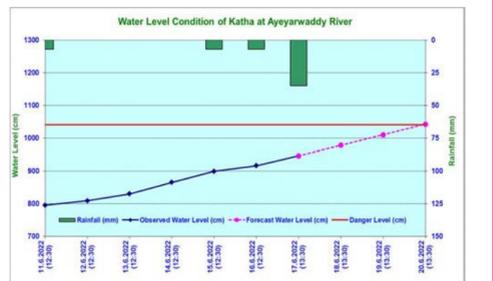
SOURCE: AFP

Flood Warning

(Issued at 14:00 hrs M.S.T on 17-6-2022)

According to the (13:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Katha is observed as about (3) feet below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next (3) days.

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas at Katha Township to take precaution measure.



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CBM holds monsoon tree-planting ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw

A monsoon tree-planting ceremony 2022 was held at Office No 55, Central Bank of Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw on 17 June.

First, Governor U Than Nyein of the Central Bank of Myanmar and Deputy Governor U Win Thaw planted the Mahogany and gold mohur saplings while the directors-general, officials and staff grew teak saplings, Mahogany saplings, gold mohur saplings and Bauhinia bride saplings in designated

places.

Then, officials and members viewed the cultivation of saplings by staff members and left instructions for thriving trees and plants that were grown in the past monsoon seasons.

Precious teak saplings, Mahogany saplings, gold mohur saplings and Bauhinia bride saplings totalling 350 saplings were planted at the event. — MNA

MoC arranges importation of essential anti-COVID-19 equipment

THE Ministry of Commerce supervises the import of necessary medical supplies as well as anti-COVID-19 devices critical to the COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities through border trade posts, international airports and seaports.

A total of 16 tonnes of disposable face masks were imported by a company with the use of two vehicles through the

Chinshwehaw Border Trade Camp yesterday.

Officials from relevant departments provided necessary facilities to beef up the standard operating procedures-SOP for the import process.

The public can browse the Ministry's Website — www.commerce.gov.mm — for notifications on the importation of medicines and related accessories. — MNA



A lorry is pictured transporting the imported anti-Covid supplies (right) to states and regions.

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, petroleum, foodstuffs, medicines, toys, mobiles, ceramic tiles and vehicles seized

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

Under the instructions of the Chairman of the Anti-Illicit Trade Task Force, a combined inspection team made inspections at the Meyan Combined

Checkpoint on 14 June.

They seized over K1.32 million worth of 95 cartons of juice with marijuana seals which were suspected to consist of marijuana without official documents from a passenger bus and the action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

In addition, five cartons of eye drops, which exceeded the Import Declaration (ID), worth K5 million were captured at the Yangon Airport Cargo Warehouse (airport import desk) under the supervision of the Customs Department and the action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

On 15 June, inspections were carried out at the Asia World Container Checkpoint under the supervision of the Customs Department.

K10.5 million worth of a Hyundai Grace car and K11 million worth of a Kia Pregio van which were abandoned by owners without the expiry date of the import declaration (ID) were seized and the action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Similarly, the Myanmar Industrial Port Container Checkpoint seized K8.232 million worth of various toys that exceeded the Import Declaration (ID) and the Htedan

Port Container Checkpoint captured K2.532 million worth of various toys that exceeded the Import Declaration (ID). The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

In addition, Myanmar Police Force confiscated six gallons of illegal liquor at an estimated value of K95,000 in Matupi township and the action was taken under the Municipal Law, Chin State.

On 15 June, the combined team captured 150 gallons of illegal crude oil and related materials at an estimated value of K3.005 million in Thayet township and the action was taken under the Myanmar Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law.

Similarly, on 16 June, a total of 3.929 tonnes of illegal timbers (approximately K1,822,152) were seized in Aunglan and Kanma townships and the action was taken under the Forest Law.

On the same day, Kawka-

reik (Tadakyoe) Checkpoint captured K1.920 million worth of ceramic tiles and K3.430 million worth of 35 mobile phones and the action was taken under the Customs Law.

A total of 9.5008 tonnes of illegal timbers (approximately K665,056) in Bogale township were confiscated under the supervision of the Ayeyawady Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force and the action was taken under the Forest Law.

On 17 June, the inspection team led by the Bago Region Forest Department made inspections in Bago township.

They captured a total of 2.5120 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K1,520,448 and the action was taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, 20 arrests (approximately K51,042,156) were made on four consecutive days from 14 to 17 June, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee.—MNA



Seized illegal toys.

LOCAL BUSINESS

Grape cultivation thriving in Natmauk town

GRAPE cultivation on a commercial scale is prospering in Natmauk town, Magway Region.

Grapes are highly demanded in the domestic market. Grape cultivation can be seen in the neighbouring villages of Natmauk town. This small-scale business helps the villagers earn a living. Locals from Latkhokpin village, which is two miles away from Natmauk town, are also engaged in grape cultivation. They supply the grapes to the Natmauk town. The grapes can be harvested six months after

pruning grapevines.

The wholesale prices of grapes are K3,500-4,000 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes)

This year, Seintalone mango is abundantly flowing into markets. The sales of grapes are declining, for now, said U Wai Yan Soe, an owner of grape farms.

There are different varieties of grapes — Italian grape, RG, Black Queen, No 3 and Chun. Black Queen and Moon Ball grapes are primarily grown. Prices vary depending on the different varieties. — KK/GNLM



The wholesale prices of grapes are K3,500-4,000 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes).

Terminalia catappa benefits health and eyes market

By Lin Oo

A 70-year-old woman is hitting the fruits of *Terminalia catappa* (Natapoa nut), which is commonly called Indian almond or tropical almond and is locally called Badum, with a hammer by the roadside near the pedestrian platform of Phoneygi Road in Lanmadaw Township. She is not just doing this for fun but for income.

She collects raw Badum fruits from the large tropical trees which are naturally and widely grown on the roadside in Dala Township, where she lives. She does not need to worry over raw materials.

Regardless of senior age, she does not follow the easy path but still struggles to earn a living with her own business by selling the Badum nuts. She daily comes to Yangon from the opposite side of Dala Port carrying her raw materials. Transportation cost is estimated at K2,600 a day, including ferry charges, and trishaw rate, an elder woman said.

The roadside Badum nut market can be seen earlier along Pansodan Street in Yangon city. The sellers are rarely seen when they lack raw materials. When some businesspersons realized the health benefits of this tropical almond, an online market boomed for a while.

“There is no cultivation of *Terminalia catappa*, yet they are naturally grown. They are shade trees and can be used as herbs. Earlier, people bought nuts from roadside markets with paper



A 70-year-old woman is hitting the fruits of *Terminalia catappa* (Natapoa nut), which is commonly called Indian almond or tropical almond and is locally called Badum, with a hammer by the roadside near the pedestrian platform of Phoneygi Road in Lanmadaw Township.

cones. At present, the nuts can be available through online trade platforms, making those street-side vendors lack raw materials,” said Daw Sein Aye, a seller in Pansodan Township.

The ready-to-eat Banda nuts roadside market has weak hygiene knowledge and practices. Therefore, the consumers turn to online markets with systematic packaging.

The 10-15 nuts are priced at K500 per paper cone from the roadside market. It is worth K5,500 per 10 ticals (a tical equals 0.578 ounce or 0.016 kilogramme). In recent days, Badum nuts, sunflower seeds, and pumpkin seeds are produced as a product. It is not a waste of money for snacks as natural Badum nuts have health benefits, said Ko Thein Toe, a nutrition researcher from Pazundaung Township.

The nuts can reduce the risk

of colorectal cancer and heart disease and strengthen the brain and lower the risk of Alzheimer’s disease. It helps digestion and protects against colon cancer.

The handful of Badum nuts has rich sources of minerals such as Manganese and copper which keep the immune system healthy and Riboflavin to produce energy.

Healthy Monounsaturated fats, proteins, calcium and Vitamin E are found in the nuts so they can reduce the high risk of heart disease and heart attack.

It also contains phosphorus which matters to bone and teeth. It can deliver benefits for people with arthritis.

As prevention is better than cure, people should take necessary measures for any unwanted circumstances. Badum nuts are suggested for health benefits, said U San, a health enthusiast.

Translated.

Myanmar-Thailand border trade up by \$150.9 mln as of 10 June

THE value of Myanmar’s bilateral trade with the neighbouring country Thailand through the land borders was registered as a significant increase of US\$150.925 million over the past two months of the current financial year 2022-2023 as against the year-ago period, the statistics issued by the Ministry of Commerce indicated.

The ministry reported that exports surpassed imports in trade with Thailand between 1 April and 7 June, with exports reaching over \$693.96 million and imports valued at over \$296.7 million, totalling \$990.673 million.

During the corresponding period of the past FY2020-2021, Myanmar-Thailand border trade amounted to \$839.74 million.

There are seven border posts between Myanmar and Thailand, Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Hteekhee, Myeik, Mawtaung and Meisei. Except for Kawthoung and Mawtaung, the remaining land borders showed an increase in trade this FY.

The value of border trade stood at \$39.15 million via Tachilek, \$467.6 million via Myawady, \$25.83 million via Kawthoung, and \$20.5 million via Myeik, \$436.77 million via Hteekhee and \$0.77 million via Mawtaung.

Myanmar exports corn to Thailand through the Myawady and Tachilek land borders. Additionally, exports of natural gas through Hteekhee in the Taninthayi Region contributed to the enormous increase in border trade with Thailand.

The use of Baht-Kyat in bilateral transactions also resulted in trade facilitation, said a trader.

Myanmar primarily exports natural gas, fishery products, coal, tin concentrate (SN 71.58 per cent), coconut (fresh and dry), beans, and bamboo shoots to Thailand. It imports capital goods such as machinery, raw industrial goods such as cement and fertilizers, and consumer goods such as cosmetics and food products from the neighbouring country. — KK/GNLM



Myanmar primarily exports natural gas, fishery products, coal, tin concentrate (SN 71.58 per cent), coconut (fresh and dry), beans, and bamboo shoots to Thailand.

ECONOMY WORLD

China's Xi to host virtual summit for BRICS emerging economies

CHINESE President Xi Jinping will host a virtual summit with top leaders from Russia, India, Brazil and South Africa next week, marking the first such meeting since the Ukraine crisis unfolded.

The influential club of BRICS emerging economies formed in 2009 is home to more than 40 per cent of the global population and accounts for nearly a quarter of the world's gross domestic product.

Three of its members — China, India and South Africa — have abstained from voting on a UN resolution condemning

Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

China and India have strong military links with Russia and purchase significant amounts of its oil and gas.

Xi in a call Wednesday assured his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin that China will support Moscow's core interests in "sovereignty and security" — leading Washington to warn Beijing it risked ending up "on the wrong side of history".

South Africa, one of the few African countries wielding diplomatic influence outside the continent, has also refused to condemn the Russian military



China and India have strong military links with Russia and purchase significant amounts of its oil and gas. Oil storage tanks of the Russian oil company LUKOIL. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/AFP/FILE

action, to safeguard important economic ties.

Xi will chair the virtual BRICS summit on 23 June, state news agency Xinhua said Friday, citing Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying.

This year's theme focuses on "fostering high-quality BRICS partnerships (and) ushering in a new era for global development", Hua said. China said at a BRICS foreign ministers meeting in May that it wants other emerging economies to join the grouping, though it is unclear whether new members have been invited.—AFP

Deadly heatwaves directly threaten world economy

MORE frequent and intense heatwaves are the most deadly form of extreme weather made worse by global warming, with death tolls sometimes in the thousands, but they can also have devastating economic impacts too, experts say.

The prolonged and unseasonable scorches gripping the central United States (US) and rolling northward across western Europe, sending the thermometer above 40C (degrees Celcius), are likely to cause both.

Very high temperatures caused nearly 10 per cent of the two million deaths attributed to extreme weather events from 1970 to 2019, according to the World Meteorological Organization.

From 2010 to 2019 scorching heat was responsible for half of 185,000 extreme weather deaths registered.

In Europe, heatwaves accounted for about 90 per cent

of weather-related mortality between 1980 and 2022, the European Environment Agency (EEA) has reported.

Heatwaves rack up economic costs as well, but they are harder to quantify than damage from a storm or flood, and more difficult to insure.



People enjoy an open-air swimming pool near the Rhone river bank during a heatwave as temperatures could exceed seasonal norms by ten degrees celsius in Lyon, eastern France on 18 May 2022. PHOTO: OLIVIER CHASSIGNOLE / AFP

But extended bouts of great heat can result in more hospital visits, a sharp loss of productivity in construction and agriculture, reduced agricultural yields, and even direct damage to infrastructure. Excess mortality has an economic cost too.—AFP

China factory output, retail sales weak as Covid shadow persists

CHINA'S factory output and retail sales remained weak in May, official data showed Wednesday, with tepid demand and lingering Covid restrictions putting a damper on growth in the world's second-largest economy.

The government is persisting with a zero-Covid strategy to stamp out clusters as they emerge, but this has placed companies and consumers at the mercy of snap, economically damaging lockdowns. Retail sales sank 6.7 per cent on-year in May, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said, though that was an improvement from April's 11.1 per cent drop.

The figure was also slightly better than forecasts from analysts polled by Bloomberg.

"In May, our economy gradually overcame the ad-

verse impact of the pandemic," NBS spokesman Fu Linghui told reporters.

"But we also have to see that the international environment has become more complex and severe, and the domestic economic recovery still faces many difficulties and challenges." It was the third straight month of contraction in retail sales, according to official data, suggesting nervous consumers are tightening their purse strings with the persistent threat of lockdowns. But industrial production was up 0.7 per cent after falling 2.9 per cent in April, while the urban unemployment rate ticked down to 5.9 per cent. Shanghai, China's most populous city, started emerging from a gruelling two-month lockdown in June, providing a boost to economic sentiment.—AFP

Ecuador roads blockaded on fourth day of fuel price protests

INDIGENOUS Ecuadorans used burning tires, tree trunks and stones Thursday to block access to the capital, Quito, on the fourth day of protests against high fuel prices and living costs.

Indigenous people, who

make up over a million of Ecuador's 17.7 million inhabitants, embarked on an open-ended anti-government protest Monday that has since been joined by students and other discontented groups.

"We came to claim our rights because we are paid low prices for the products we produce," Nelson Jami, a farmer from the southern Cotopaxi province, told AFP at a blockade south of Quito.

Protests and roadblocks

were registered Thursday in 15 of Ecuador's 24 provinces, authorities said, with hundreds of demonstrators gathered in Quito alone.

Firefighters said a truck carrying demonstrators overturned

in Quito Thursday, injuring 12 people.

Oil producer Ecuador has been hit by rising inflation, unemployment and poverty exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic.—AFP

China's online payment users top 900 mln: report

THE number of online payment users in China amounted to 904 million at the end of 2021, a report said Wednesday. The figure accounted for 87.6 per cent of the country's total netizens and was up by nearly 50 million from a year ago, according to the Payment & Clearing Association of China. China's cashless and cardless trend continues to grow, covering an increasing number of scenarios from ordering food to paying bus fare. Chinese banks handled 102.28 billion such transactions with a combined value of 2,353.96 trillion yuan (about 350 trillion U.S. dollars) last year, 5.32 times and 2.86 times that of 2012, respectively.—Xinhua

Japan's top court rules state not liable for Fukushima disaster

JAPAN'S top court on Friday dismissed claims that the government should pay damages in cases involving around 3,700 people whose lives were seriously affected by the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster, absolving the state of responsibility for the crisis that led to mass evacuations.

The decision by the Supreme Court's Second Petty Bench was the first for the top court and covered four lawsuits filed in Fukushima, Gunma, Chiba and Ehime prefectures. Around 30 such lawsuits have been filed across Japan by people who had to evacuate from their homes or whose lives were greatly impacted by the earthquake- and tsunami-triggered disaster.

The ruling leaves Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings Inc., the operator of the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, solely responsible for slightly over 1.4 billion yen (\$10.5 million) in damages in the four lawsuits. The top court finalized the utility's liability in March for the first time. Reflecting the majority opinion of three out of four judges on the bench, the court ruled that the government "was highly unlikely to have been able to prevent the flooding" of the plant, even if it had exercised its regulatory powers over TEPCO to take preventative measures as the scale and direction of the actual tsunami differed from estimates.—Kyodo



Plaintiffs walk to the Supreme Court in Tokyo on 17 June 2022, before the court's ruling on their claim that the government should be held liable for the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Germans turn to food banks as inflation hits



Demand for food banks across Germany has increased 'significantly' since the start of the year, the Tafel food bank network says. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

GERMAN pensioner Gabriele Washah waits in line to fill her trolley with bags of carrots for 50 cents,

yoghurts just past their sell-by date and bunches of wilting flowers. With the cost of living

soaring across Europe, the 65-year-old retired shop assistant is one of many Germans turning to food banks to make ends meet. "Sometimes I go home from the shop almost crying because I can't afford it any more," she told AFP outside the row of stalls in Bernau, near Berlin.

Nestled in an alleyway behind a big chain supermarket, the food bank sells at greatly reduced prices groceries donated by supermarkets, as well as cheap prepared meals.

Here, customers can pick up a full trolley of food for around 30 euros (around \$32).

For Washah, that means bread, butter and her favourite sandwich filling, sausage — "which used to cost 99 cents (\$1.02) but now sometimes costs more than two euros". Driven by the war in Ukraine, inflation in Germany soared to 7.9 per cent in May — its highest level since reunification in 1990, with food prices among those worst affected.—AFP

Russia-Ukraine conflict hurting East Africa's business community

THE Russia-Ukraine conflict is hurting the performance of East Africa's business community due to the rising prices of key commodities, the regional apex lobby said Thursday.

John Bosco Kalisa, the chief executive officer of the East African Business Council (EABC), told

journalists in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya, that the crisis has disrupted global supply chains and has been devastating given the substantial amount of products that are imported from the two nations.

"The financial performance of businesses has been negatively affected

given that we are net importers of wheat and edible oils from Russia and Ukraine which are key inputs for businesses," Kalisa said during the EABC-Trade Mark East Africa regional private sector consultative meeting on the African Continental Free Trade

Area (AfCFTA) and Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA).

He observed that the transmission mechanism of the impact of the Russia-Ukraine crisis has manifested in the form of skyrocketing prices of most household and commercial goods.—Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCL 17 VOY.NO. (06/2022)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCL 17 VOY. NO. (06/2022)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **20-6-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MKH** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

**Shipping Agency Department
Myanmar Port Authority**

Agent For:

M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD

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GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Denmark jails British sailor over fatal ship collision

A Danish court on Thursday sentenced a British sailor to 18 months in prison for his role in a fatal collision between his cargo ship and a Danish fishing vessel in the Baltic Sea.

"A 30-year-old British man, who was the officer in charge on the MV Scot Carrier, was today sentenced to one and a half years in prison by the Copenhagen district court for his role in a ship collision that claimed the lives of two Danish sailors," the prosecution said in a statement.

The man, who was found to have been drunk while keeping



Divers work on the capsized Danish cargo ship Karin Hoej which collided with the British cargo ship Scot Carrier on 13 December 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

watch at the time of the incident and did not contest the charges, was found guilty of involuntary manslaughter, and was ordered deported from Denmark after serving his sentence.

He was also banned from sailing in Danish waters.

The accident occurred at night on 13 December in the Baltic Sea, between the port of Ystad in southern Sweden and the Danish island of Bornholm.

The Danish ship, Karin Hoj, was hit by the much larger British vessel and capsized, killing the two sailors on board.— AFP

Sharing border with US complicates gun violence issues in Canada: report

THE US gun control laws are erected on a state-by-state basis, and sharing a border with a nation like the United States complicates gun violence issues in Canada, Spectrum News 1 reported Wednesday. While gun violence is an issue in Canada, the magnitude of single shootings is greater in the United States because of semiautomatic weapons, according to the report. "Guns are too easy to get in the United States," Jooyoung Lee, associate professor of sociology and faculty member at the Centre for the Study of the United States, was quoted as saying.—Xinhua

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Some 10,000 civilians still in Ukraine's Severodonetsk: governor

AROUND 10,000 civilians are trapped in Ukraine's eastern city of Severodonetsk, where intense fighting with Russia has raged for weeks, the local governor

said Thursday.

"Out of 100,000 residents, around 10,000 remain," Sergiy Gaiday, the governor of the Lugansk region, said on Telegram.

He said Kyiv's army is "holding back the enemy as much as possible".

"For almost four months they have dreamt of controlling Severodonetsk... and they do not count the victims," Gaiday said.

He said the Russian army "loses hundreds of fighters, finds reserves and continues to destroy Severodonetsk".

The city is the biggest in the Lugansk region that is still in Ukrainian hands and it has been under heavy shelling for weeks.

The three bridges linking the city to Ukrainian-held Lysychansk, just across the river, have all been destroyed.

Capturing the city would allow Russian forces to advance further into the Donbas region.— AFP



A Ukrainian army armoured vehicle passes on a road as smoke rises in the background in the city of Severodonetsk, Donbass region, on 6 April 2022. **PHOTO: FADEL SENNA / AFP**

G-7 ministers to meet next week with focus on food crisis

THE Group of Seven major developed nations are arranging a ministerial meeting in Germany late next week to discuss food shortages in regions such as Africa highly reliant on Ukrainian grain imports, as Russia's invasion of Ukraine continues, diplomatic sources

said Thursday.

The envisaged meeting will lay the groundwork for a three-day G-7 summit to be held from 26 June in Schloss Elmau in southern Germany, where the food crisis is also expected to be on the agenda, according to the sources.

Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi is considering attending the talks online and expected to explain the Japanese government's supportive efforts to address food shortages through entities such as the UN World Food Programme, the sources said.—Kyodo

NEWS IN BRIEF

16 Japan universities team up to accept students from war-hit Ukraine



Supplied photo shows Pathways Japan Representative Director Norimasa Orii giving an orientation to students from Ukraine in Tokyo on 19 May 2022. **PHOTO: PATHWAYS JAPAN/KYODO**

SIXTEEN Japanese universities have teamed up to accept students fleeing war-torn Ukraine to help them rekindle hopes to build a future that seemed impossible following the Russian invasion.

The colleges, including International Christian University, Meiji University and Sophia University, plan to offer approximately 70 students in total free education and a safe environment to study.—Kyodo

Russian navy to receive 46 ships in 2022

THE Russian navy will receive 46 warships and support vessels in 2022, Commander-in-Chief of the Navy Nikolay Yevmenov said.

The global military-political situation requires Russia to have a strong and balanced fleet, Yevmenov said at a keel-laying ceremony for two diesel-electric submarines in Russia's second-largest city of St. Petersburg.

He reiterated President Vladimir Putin's desire for the Russian navy to maintain a share of modern ships of at least 70 per cent.—Xinhua

China launches third aircraft carrier

CHINA launched its third aircraft carrier, the Fujian, in Shanghai on Friday. The carrier, named after Fujian Province, was completely designed and built by China.

The new carrier was put into the water at a launch ceremony that started at about 11 am.

Xu Qiliang, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), pre-

sented a naming certificate to the navy unit receiving the carrier.

Approved by the CMC, the Fujian was given the hull number 18.

It is China's first domestically-made carrier that uses catapults. With a full-load displacement of more than 80,000 tonnes, the carrier is equipped with electromagnetic catapults and arresting devices.

The new carrier will conduct mooring tests and sea trials as scheduled.—Xinhua



Photo taken on 17 June 2022 shows the launching ceremony of China's third aircraft carrier, the Fujian, in east China's Shanghai. The carrier, named after Fujian Province, was completely designed and built by the country. PHOTO: XINHUA/LI GANG

Ex-guerrilla takes on maverick in race to be Colombia's president



Men pose holding cardboard cutouts of Colombia's presidential candidates, Gustavo Petro (right) and Rodolfo Hernandez (left) in Bogota, on 9 June 2022. PHOTO: AFP

A former leftist guerrilla and a millionaire businessman will go head-to-head on Sunday hoping to become the new president of Colombia following a tense campaign in which no candidates appeared safe.

Gustavo Petro, 62, comfortably topped last month's first

round of voting and is vying to become Colombia's first left-wing president.

But Colombia's traditional political elites have thrown their weight behind his unconventional independent rival, 77-year-old construction magnate Rodolfo Hernandez.

The most recent opinion polls have been inconclusive, meaning a tight race lies ahead. **Guerrilla organizer**

A self-styled "revolutionary" warrior for the marginalized — black and Indigenous people, the poor and the young — Petro promises to address hunger and inequality.

Accused of despotic tendencies while serving as mayor of Bogota from 2012 to 2015, Petro is in his third presidential race.

The father of six is described as a good orator, though not necessarily charismatic. He is a map buff, and a keen social media user.

Born into a modest family on Colombia's Caribbean coast, Petro embraced leftist politics as a teenager after the 1973 coup d'etat in Chile that unseated Marxist president Salvador Allende.—AFP

Thai influencers charged with royal insult over adverts

THAI police charged three social media influencers with lese majeste Thursday over controversial social media advertisements for an e-commerce firm that monarchists said mocked a member of the royal family.

The TikTok clips promoting Lazada — owned by China's Alibaba Group — enraged ultra-royalists who called for it to be banned in the kingdom, and led to the Thai military barring the firm's delivery vehicles from its premises.

Criticism of the monarchy is taboo in Thailand, where King Maha Vajiralongkorn and his close family are protected by some of the world's toughest royal insult laws, with each charge carrying a prison term of up to 15 years.

Police Colonel Siriwat Deepo from the Technology Crime Suppression Division confirmed

to AFP the arrest of the three people acting in the clips: Anuwat Pratumklin, Kittikhun Thamakitirat and Thidaporn Chaokovieng.

Their lawyer Duangrat Srinaunt told AFP the trio had been freed on bail and that they denied the charges.

In the clips Thidaporn, wearing a traditional Thai silk costume, sits in a wheelchair playing an influencer's mother — which angry monarchists said was an insulting allusion to a member of the royal family.

The material also attracted criticism from disability campaigners who described it as distasteful and disrespectful to wheelchair users.

Lazada — one of Southeast Asia's biggest online shopping platforms — and the advertising firm which produced the clips have issued apologies.—AFP

EU beefs up fight against social media disinformation

THE EU is stepping up its fight against disinformation spread by accounts on Facebook, Google, Twitter and other social media with a bolstered code of practice presented Thursday. The text — a reinforced revision of the code originally launched in 2018 — aims to push the platforms

to more urgently and systematically crack down on false advertising, demonetize accounts spreading disinformation and boost fact-checking. The code, obtained by AFP ahead of publication, remains voluntary. But officials expect around 30 bodies to sign up, including some of the

biggest social media companies, including Facebook parent Meta, Twitter, Microsoft and TikTok, along with big advertising corporations. They all had input into the drafting of the updated code along with fact-checking outfits and media watchdogs such as Reporters Without Borders (RSF

by its initials in French).

It was to be presented Thursday by the EU commissioner for transparency, Vera Jourova, and internal market commissioner Thierry Breton. The new code of practice contains some 40 commitments, around double the number in the previous version,

along with indicators to measure how well they are being met.

While the previous text relied on self-regulation, the new one holds the biggest platforms — those with at least 45 million users in the EU — to binding measures set out in the bloc's Digital Services Act (DSA).—AFP



Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

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

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

3. Social affairs

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

Myanmar women's team prepares for ASEAN Championship

THE Myanmar women's team is preparing for the 2022 ASEAN Women's Eight Championship, said Myanmar Football Federation officials. The women's national team has been taking training with 26 preliminary players since 6 June.

Among them, team captain Khin Malar Tun has not been able to join the team as she is currently playing for a Thai club and the team is only under training with the rest of the players.

Daw Thet Thet Win is the acting head coach of the Myanmar women's team ahead of the ASEAN Women's Championship. The Myanmar Football Federation has appointed Daw Thet Thet Win as interim head coach for the ASEAN Women's Championship.

Daw Thet Thet Win is the head coach of the Myanmar U-18 Women's Team and is currently in charge of both teams.

She is a former player of the Myanmar women's national team and has achieved much in her playing career as well as in her coaching career.

She has been in charge of the Myanmar women's team for a short time, helping the national team win a second-place finish in the 2015 ASEAN Championship and the U-19 Women's Team qualifying in the 2019 AFC U-20 Championship. The 2022 ASEAN Women's Championship will be held from 4 to 17 July in the Philippines. Myanmar is placed in Group B with Viet Nam, Timor-Leste, Cambodia, and Laos. —Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Myanmar team prepares for ASEAN U-19 Championship

THE Myanmar U-19 national team is under training ahead of the 2022 ASEAN U-19 Championship to be held in Indonesia from 2 to 15 July, football officials said.

Head Coach U Soe Myat Min will handle the U-19 National Team and he is giving special tactics to 28 preliminary players.

The Myanmar U-19 national team has been

training at the camp since April and is competing in the ASEAN U-19 Championship for the first time.

Team Myanmar was suspended from training in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and resumed training more than two years later, leaving only some veteran players and has been reorganized with

new players.

The Myanmar U-19 team is planned to make a better squad and training will continue after this tourney.

Eleven teams will compete in the ASEAN U-19 Championship. The Myanmar team will face host Indonesia, Viet Nam, Thailand, Brunei, Darussalam and the Philippines. — Ko Nyi

FIFA vows 'invasion' as 2026 World Cup venues revealed

FIFA President Gianni Infantino warned Canada, Mexico and the United States to prepare for a football "invasion" on Thursday as the host cities for the 2026 World Cup were revealed.

The first ever World Cup co-hosted by three different countries will also see a record number of teams taking part, increasing by 16 from 32 to 48 as the tournament returns to North America for the first time since the 1994 finals.

The 16 venues named on Thursday include 11 in the United States, three in Mexico and two in Canada.

All of the US games will be held in venues that are home to NFL teams, with the likes of the \$5 billion SoFi Stadium in Los Angeles and the New York Giants' 82,000-seater MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford tipped to host the final.

A total of 60 of the 80 games in the tournament — including all knockout games from the quarter-finals onwards — will take place at US venues.—AFP

Nadal says his 'intention is to play at Wimbledon'



SPANISH tennis legend Rafael Nadal said on Friday he intends to play at Wimbledon

but his final decision rests on how his troublesome left foot feels after training in London next week.

"My intention is to play at Wimbledon," Nadal said at a press conference in Mallorca.

"The treatment and the last week of training tells me there is a chance. I will travel to London on Monday, play an exhibition at Hurlingham and do a week of training to see if it's possible." Nadal said injections meant his left foot felt "asleep" during the French Open final on June 5 — he still beat Casper Ruud to claim a record-extending 22nd Grand Slam title.

Nadal travelled to Bar-

celona last week to begin "pulsed radiofrequency stimulation", a treatment aimed

at reducing nerve pain.

Nadal's spokesperson said

the treatment would leave the nerves in his foot "temporarily numb". The 36-year-old then had his first session on grass on Monday at the Mallorca Country Club in Santa Ponca and has steadily increased the intensity of his training this week.

"I have noticed a difference, some slightly strange feelings to be honest," said Nadal.

"With the treatment in the nerves, things happen in your foot, sometimes one part of the foot goes numb, sometimes another.—AFP

Rafael Nadal said he intends to play at Wimbledon but his final decision rests on how his troublesome left foot feels after training in London next week. **PHOTO: AFP**