

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

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

SAC Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds peace talks with peace delegation led by DKBA



State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing poses for the documentary photo with the delegation led by Commander-in-Chief Saw Steel of Democratic Karen Benevolent Army-DKBA in Nay Pyi Taw on 19 June 2022.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received the peace delegation led by Commander-in-Chief Saw Steel of Democratic Karen Benevolent Army-DKBA at the parlour of Bayintnaung Villa in

Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon to talk about peace issues.

The talk was also attended by Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Council members General

Mya Tun Oo, Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun and Lt-Gen Yar Pyae. Commander-in-Chief Saw Steel of Democratic Karen Benevolent Army-DKBA was accompanied by Adjutant General Saw Sein Win and Head of Relations Department Saw Kyaw Than Htay.

At the talks, the Senior Gen-

eral said that invitation was extended to all to hold the peace talks for serving the interests of the Union, and ethnic armed organizations were urged to be open-minded in talks as demands of the ethnic armed organizations and appropriate measures for the needs of each

region and the country will be discussed thoroughly. The Senior General explained exercising of multiparty democracy in conformity with the people's desires and construction of the Union based on democracy and federalism.

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Myanmar Gazette

Appointment of Head of Service Organization

THE State Administration Council has appointed General Manager (Jade) U Maung Maung Shein of the Myanmar Gems Enterprise under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, as Managing Director of the same enterprise on probation from the date, he assumes charge of his duties.

5 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 19 June, total figure rises to 613,490

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **613,490** after **five** new cases were reported on 19 June 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **592,492** 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 18-6-2022, a total of **34,777,314** people have been vaccinated. Of them, **27,545,329** people have been fully vaccinated and **7,231,985** people have yet to get the second shots and **2,404,802** people have received booster doses.—MNA

Completion of jetty in Union National Races Village (Yangon) to attract more tourists

THE Union National Races Village (Yangon), located on the bank of Bago River, in Thakayta Township is bustling with daily tourist arrivals. Upon completion, the jetty in the village will be attractive to the number of tourists due to the opening of the waterway.

A tender is being called for the construction of the jetty on the Bago River bank near the MV-705 showroom, with construction expected to be completed by the end of this year. With the completion of the jetty, not only the Star City water bus but also international cruises can dock at the village.

"On completion of the jetty, foreign tourism transportation

will be expanded by connecting with the hotels and tourists. In addition, plans are underway for the Star City river cruise and foreign cruise vessels to dock at the jetty," said Director of the village U Myo Win.

During the rainy season, the village admits between 400 and 500 tourists per day on weekdays. About 2,000 tourists pay visits there on each rainy weekend, and ethnic people entertain them with singing, dance and performances every day. It is also learned that one of the programmes to serve foreign tourists, upon the completion of the jetty, is that they will be able to cook and eat traditional ethnic foods by oneself.



A satellite photo carries location of Union National Races Village (Yangon) near Bago River. **PHOTO: KANU**

The jetty will be 12 feet wide, with a 186 feet long

bridge, and the jetty is expected to attract more domestic/

foreign tourists.—Nyein Thu (MNA)/GNLM

Peace delegation led by PNLO Vice-Chair-1 leaves Nay Pyi Taw



Officials of NSPNC, departmental personnel and local people see off peace delegation of Pa-O National Liberation Organization-PNLO in Nay Pyi Taw on 19 June.

THE peace delegation led by Vice-Chair-1 U Khun Htun Tin of the Pa-O National Liberation Organization-PNLO, which had arrived in Nay Pyi Taw on the invitation of State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, left Nay Pyi Taw

yesterday.

The delegation was seen off by officials and members of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee, departmental officials and ethnic people of the Department of Fine Arts and locals by holding miniature State 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 tranquillity will be achieved".—MNA

Reference wholesale price set as K5,815 per viss of palm oil

IT was announced on 19 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.

According to market and price in the world's palm oil exporters this week, the committee has announced the basic Yangon Reference Wholesale Price of palm oil is K5,815 per viss within 20 and 30 June.

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

I would seriously urge the entire nation to join hands with the Tatmadaw for the successful realization of democracy

OUR Three Main National Causes – non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty – is the most important task of the democratization process. As the task of safeguarding Our Three Main National Causes is the main duty of the Tatmadaw, all the sectors of the State duty have already been transferred to the Tatmadaw. So, I would seriously urge the entire nation to join hands with the Tatmadaw for the successful realization of democracy, while adhering to Our Three Main National Causes.

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

SAC Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds peace talks with peace delegation led by DKBA

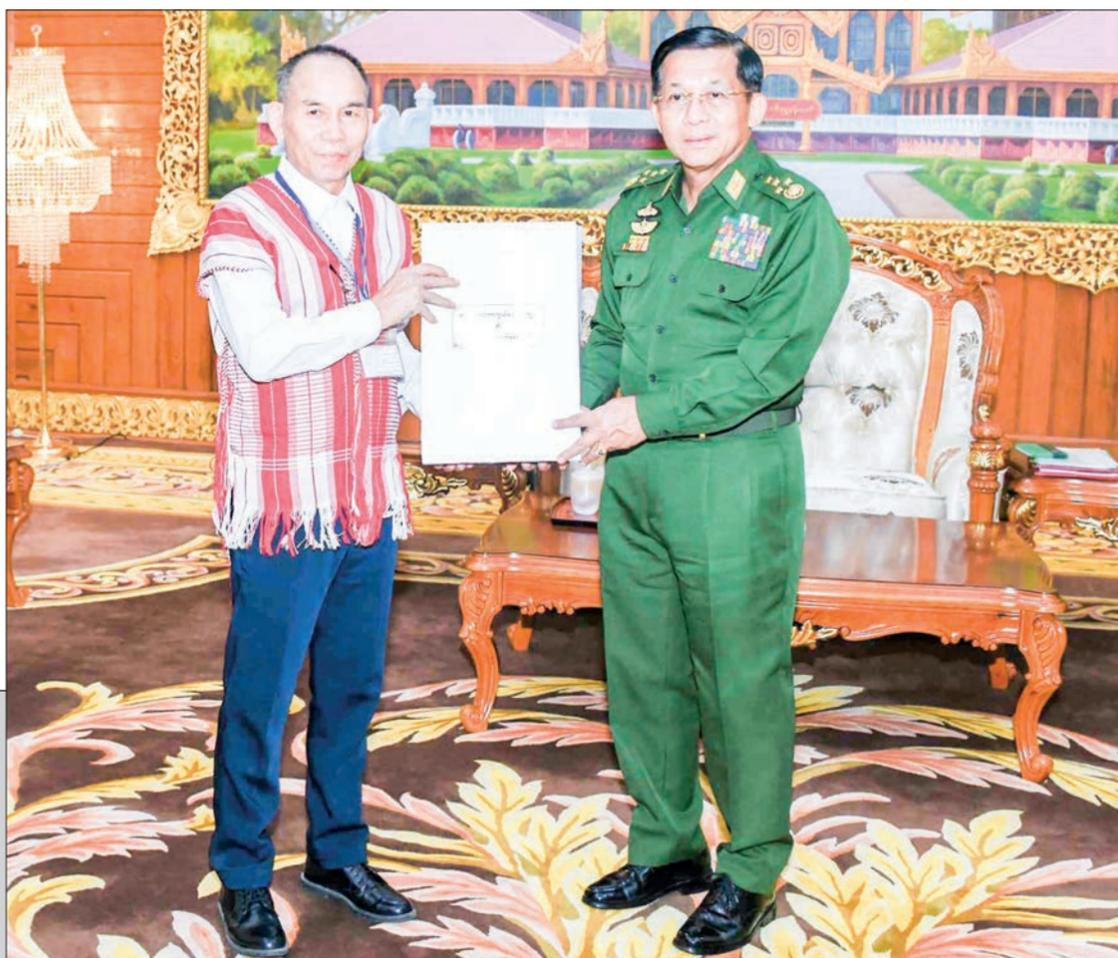
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Commander-in-Chief Saw Steel of Democratic Karen Benevolent Army-DKBA and party discussed the situation of the Democratic Karen Benevolent Army-DKBA to permanently join hands with the Tatmadaw and similar attitudes for building the Union based on democracy and federalism. They also reported on regional development measures. Next, both sides frankly exchanged their views on peace issues and regional development tasks.

After the talks, the Senior General presented gifts

to Commander-in-Chief Saw Steel of Democratic Karen Benevolent Army-DKBA and party who returned domestic gifts. They then posed for documentary photos.

The peace delegation led by Commander-in-Chief Saw Steel of Democratic Karen Benevolent Army-DKBA will hold peace talks with the Peace Talks Team and the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee with participation of the council members formed by the State Administration Council.—
MNA



The Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presents gifts to Commander-in-Chief Saw Steel of Democratic Karen Benevolent Army-DKBA at the peace talks on 19 June.

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

Myanmar delegation joins 25th St Petersburg Int'l Economic Forum- SPIEF' 22



Union Ministers of Myanmar delegation attend 25th St Petersburg International Economic Forum-SPIEF'22 in Russian Federation from 15 to 18 June.

A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Aung Naing Oo, Union Minister for International Cooperation U Ko Ko Hlaing, Union Minister for Electric Power and for Energy U Thaung Han and Union Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint San, and Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar Daw Than Than Swe, attended the 25th St. Petersburg International Economic Forum-SPIEF'22 from 15 to 18 June in the Russian Federation.

Prior to the forum, on the afternoon of 14 June, Union Minister for Electric Power and for Energy U Thaung Han and delegation received Mr. Rodionov Nikita, Deputy Director-General for Foreign Economic Relations of Sigma LLC Co., Ltd, and discussed the production of petroleum products and issues related to import, sale and construction of the refinery.

On the first day of the forum on 15 June, Union Minister U Aung Naing Oo met with officials of Sigma LLC Co., Ltd and discussed the investment opportunities and regulations

in the Myanmar's energy sector. Furthermore, Union Minister U Thaung Han and delegation also visited Baltic Shipyard in St. Petersburg and observed the ship-building measures in the shipyard.

In the evening, Union Ministers U Win Shein, U Aung Naing Oo, U Ko Ko Hlaing and Dr Pwint San and delegation accompanied by Myanmar Ambassador to Russia U Lwin Oo attended a working dinner hosted by Mr. Sergei Glazyev, Minister in Charge of Integration and Macroeconomics of the Eurasian Economic Commission. They discussed banking and payments issues between the two countries, investment and trade issues, enhancement of economic cooperation between Myanmar and Eurasian Economic Union member states, signing for Memorandum of Cooperation between Myanmar and the Eurasian Economic Commission, practical capacity building programmes between Myanmar and Eurasian, promotion of cooperation between ASEAN and the Eurasian Economic Commission, and the signing of a free trade agreement between Myanmar and the Eurasian Economic Commission.

On the second day of the forum on 16 June, the Myanmar delegation attended the EAEU-ASEAN meeting, where Union Minister U Aung Naing Oo discussed the technological and industrial cooperation between EAEU and ASEAN, carbon offsets in energy use, joint implementation of environmental and climate change projects, issues related to the implementation of the digital process and the establishment of digital infrastructure. In addition, Union Ministers U Aung Naing Oo and Dr Pwint San held talks with Mr Maksim Reshetnikov, Minister for Economic Development of Russia about hosting the 3rd meeting of Russia-Myanmar Intergovernmental Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation, signing of the Russia-Myanmar Economic Cooperation Development Strategy (Draft), promotion of investment and trade between the two countries and establishment of industrial zones in Myanmar for Russian businesspersons.

In addition, Union Minister U Thaung Han and delegation received Mr. Alexey Likhachev, Director-General of ROSATOM State Nuclear Energy Corporation. During the meeting, they

discussed the situation of production of equipment using Russia's nuclear energy technology. The Union Minister also clarified consumption of electricity in Myanmar.

On the third-day of the forum, the Union Minister for Electric Power and for Energy and Ambassador U Lwin Oo attended the signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding on Electricity Cooperation between INTER RAO-Export LLC and the Department of Electric Power Management. At the ceremony, the General Director of INTER RAO-Export LLC Mr. Maxim E Sergeev briefed all on the import of materials and construction of power plants around the world and discussed cooperation in power projects in Myanmar.

Afterwards, the Union Minister and party received the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Energy of the Russian Federation Mr. Shulginov Nikolay and delegation. The Union Minister also clarified the need for fuel and electricity for Myanmar and discussed long-term cooperation with Russia. In this regard, it was agreed to form joint working groups between the two ministries to carry out practical work.

During the forum, Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar Daw Than Than Swe received Vice-Chairman of Bank of Russia Ms. Olga Skrobogotova and discussed the signing of a bilateral cooperation MoU between the CBM and the Bank of Russia. She also held talks with the CEO of MIR about cooperation plans between the two countries on regional financial cooperation in the tourism sector. On the fourth day of the forum on 18 June, the Myanmar delegation visited the exhibitions and discussed with private investors interested in doing business.

The St. Petersburg International Business Forum is an international forum for the exchange of views on the state of the global economy and sustainable development. It has been held since 1997 under the auspices of the President of the Russian Federation. The President of the Russian Federation attends the forum annually. The forum serves as a forum for business associations to discuss the economic opportunities and challenges facing the Russian Federation and emerging markets in the global economic markets.—MNA

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MoHT Union Minister meets officials from Nay Pyi Taw Hoteliers Association

UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Htay Aung met officials from Nay Pyi Taw Hoteliers Association, and hotel and lodge operators in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, the Union Minister said that there are 98 licensed hotels and lodges in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and 75 hotels and lodges are currently under operations.

“Now the capital Nay Pyi Taw is called “Green City, Clean City, and Smart City” accordance with the guidelines, and it is necessary to strive for shaping the city clean and beautiful, and hotels must strive to be in line with the features of the city.

“In addition, regional and national certifications for health and safety are being issued HSP Plaque for the safety and security of tourists,” he added.



Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Htay Aung meets officials of hotels and lodges in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 19 June.

Hotels and lodges should be provided with comprehensive

services to meet the needs of tourists with disabilities. Trainings are also being conducted

in states and regions to provide services to the tourists with disabilities.

Citizens need to be careful about staying in hotels and lodges with citizenship scrutiny cards.

The Guest List Management System (GLMS) is being implemented to adapt the guest statistics in line with the changing methods, and 86 hotels have been registered, but their actual use is still low.

Then, the directors-general discussed health and safety issues and the issue of balanced government-private partnership. After that, the hotel and lodge owners discussed the arrangements and general matters to make the guests ready to stay at their hotels. Afterwards, the Union Minister inspected the clean and beautification and hotels in Nay Pyi Taw and the State Guest House.—MNA

CRIME NEWS

Over K1 billion worth of heroin seized in Monywa Township



Packages of heroin seized with two suspects in Monywa Township on 14 June.

MORE than K1 billion worth of 21.78 kilos of heroin were seized in Monywa Township of Sagaing Region, Myanmar Police Force stated.

A combined team consisting of members of MPF from Sagaing Region searched a Suzuki vehicle driven by Zaw Myo Win (a) Phoe Pyar accompanied by Naung Naung (a) Myint Naung near the jetty on Strand road, Yongyi Ward in Monywa of Sagaing Region at 3:30 pm on 14 June and seized 21.78 kilos of heroin worth over K1 billion. According to the investigation, the suspects admitted the seized drugs were carried from Monywa to Homalin of Sagaing Region.

The suspects were prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law and Police are conducting the further investigations to arrest the drug traffickers, the MPF stated. — MNA

Illegal teak, textile, boat, gold mining equipment 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.

Multi-team inspections were carried out at the Myanmar Industrial Port Container Inspection Station on 17 June.

Unregistered garment products at estimated value of K17.866 million were seized and action is being taken in accordance with customs procedures.

Similarly, on 18 June, a combined inspection team under the

management of the Anti-Illicit Trade Task Force conducted patrol in Bhamo Township. Acting on tip-off, a wooden boat at estimated value of K900,000 and gold mining equipment worth about K100,000, totalling K1 million were seized among the trees near Moesein island of Manmalin village in Bhamo Township and action is being taken in accordance with Myanmar Mining Law.

Similarly, a combined inspection team led by the Region Forest Department conducted

patrol under the management of the Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force and arrested 5.5144 tonnes of illegal teak timbers at estimated value of K3,639,504 in Bago Region on 19 June and action is being taken in accordance with the forest law.

Therefore, a total of three arrests at estimated value of K22,505,504 were made on three consecutive days from 17 to 19 June according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee.—MNA



Photos show seized wooden boat and sawn teak timber in Bhamo of Kachin State and in Bago Region on 18 and 19 June.

Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Over \$ 1,174 million worth of garment products exported

OVER US\$ 1,174 million worth of garment products were exported in the second quarter of the 2021-2022 FY, according to the Ministry of Planning and Finance.

The garment products, ordered from Japan, China, South Korea, and the EU member nations, were made locally through the CMP contract system. Of 10 countries where locally-made garments were exported, garments worth \$ 930 million were exported to Germany, \$ 323 million to the UK, \$ 294 million to the Spain, \$ 266 million to France, \$ 158 million to Denmark, \$ 157 million to Italy, and \$ 145 million



Female workers are seen at local garment factory.

to the Netherlands, respectively.

In addition to major exports such as rice, beans, and corns, garment exports under CMP system is the largest. Within the last five years, garment exports have more than quadrupled, and the garment sector was the most developed sector.

Myanmar received \$ 842.6 million from the garment exports in the second quarter of the 2020-2021. In the second quarter of the 2021-2022 FY, additional \$ 332.2 million was made compared to the previous fiscal year, according to the statement of the Ministry of Planning and Finance.—TWA/GNLM

Oilseeds and sesame yields expected to be good in middle of this year

ALTHOUGH the wholesale reference price of palm oil is set at K 5,645 per viss, it is around 8,000 kyats in the market, and the people are increasing the consumption of domestically-produced sesame and sunflower oils, which has led to an increase in oilseeds growing locally. Sunflower, which has a good oil yield, has been planted more in most of the regions this year.

According to oil companies, one viss of peanut seeds yields 40 ticals of oil. This month, a viss of peanut oil is between K 8,500 and K11,000; a viss of sesame oil is between K 8,000 and K 9,000; and a viss of sunflower oil is between K 8,000 and K 9,000, according to the oil market.

Sesame cultivation in Myanmar accounts for about a half of oilseeds, and Myanmar is the world's third-largest sesame producer, said U Aung San, an agronomist. For about 30 years, local sesame cultivation has been successful on only a half of the total sown acreage due to the weather.

"Thus, the notion that sesame seeds do not match expectations is becoming more and more popular. If you invest one kyat in sesame cultivation, you can get 3 kyats," said U Aung San, adding that one acre can produce 60 acres of sesame. Khin Maung Myint, a farmer in Nyaungbintha village, Pale Township, said that stocks of sesame plants can be

used as agricultural fertilizer.

One basket of sesame seeds can be produced as six visses of oil, one basket of peanut seeds two visses of oil, one basket of sunflower seeds 2.50 visses of oil and one basket of hybrid sunflower seeds around 4.50 visses of oil, respectively.

In the 2020-2021 FY, 0.18 million tonnes of sesame was exported to earn worth \$ 236.33 million.

Since the beginning of 2022, some cyclones have triggered some rainfalls in the upper part of the country, making it convenient for sesame growers. The yields of same seeds are expected to be good by mid-2022.—TWA/GNLM



The Magway Region Chief Minister and officials inspect test plot of summer sesame plantation on 20 May.

YESC removes illegally connected fiber optic cables and Wi-Fi



Officials remove the unauthorized fiber optic cables in Yangon.

ILLEGAL fiber optic cables connected at posts of power lines owned by the Yangon Electric Supply Corporation were removed on 17 June, according to the officials.

It has been announced to the public that officials will remove the illegal Wi-Fi cables on the power lines by 30 November 2021.

However, due to non-compliance, illegal connection of fiber optic cables and Wi-Fi cables were disconnected and cleared.

The removal of Wi-Fi cables and illegal fiber-optic cables on the posts of YESC along 24th Street and Shwedagon Pagoda Road, Latha Township, Yangon Region were carried out on 17 June, 2022 by the staff of Latha Township Electrical Manager's Office, and staff from officially licensed telecommunications companies. "Internet companies rely on lamp-posts to install Wi-Fi cables. But, the electrical and telephone lines are securely connected to the city features. Illegal Wi-Fi lines are being installed at the posts of power lines of the corporation, which makes the city ugly," an electrician told GNLM.

In addition, officials conducted public electricity safety in Pazundaung Township including fixing the power loss, clearing complex cables for voltage improvement, and replacing old analog meters with digital smart meters, and implemented AMI system.

"Some internet companies install a new cable when a home has a bad internet connection. They no longer look for defects in old cables. The number of houses on the street with the Wi-Fi cable is not balanced because every new one is being connected," Ko Zaw Win, a resident of North Okkalapa Township told GNLM.

"If someone rents a house on the street and the Wi-Fi cable is connected, the company will come up. If the tenant moves out after six months, the company will come and dismantle just a machine, not the cable. —TWA/GNLM

LOCAL BUSINESS

China demand hikes chilli pepper prices

THE prices of chili pepper are moving onwards on the back of strong demand by China when there is low supply in domestic market.

The prices of chilli pepper (Moe Htaung varieties) fetch up to K7,000-K8,000 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kg) in Yangon market.

The prices stood at K4,500 to K5,400 per viss in early March. High input costs such as fertilizer and fuel oil for farming machinery were also attributed to the price rise.

Cultivation of chilli pepper varieties that are primarily demanded by China costs K2.5 million per acre on an

own farmland and K2.5 million for rental management. The chilli pepper can be harvested every 15 days up to six months. Yield is estimated 100 viss per acre in the early season. It can produce 400-500 viss in maximum.

Myanmar's chilli pepper is primarily conveyed to Thailand and China via cross-border trade channels, while it is shipped to Viet Nam through maritime trade.

It is commonly grown in Ayeyawady, Mandalay and Magway regions and Shan State. The export varieties of fresh chilli peppers are 692, 777, 999, Demon, Sunshine and Lucky one.—GNLM



Bags of chilli pepper are displayed at wholesale centre in the market.

Rubber price quickly rises over K1,200 per pound

THE prices of rubber surged over K1,200 per pound again, rubber traders said.

In early May, a pound of rubber was priced around K1,000. Shortly after, the rubber price has gradually increased. The prices of rubber stand at K1,200 per pound for sundried rubber Local 3 and K1,220 per pound for ribbed smoked sheet Local 3.

Global demand for rubber, rubber production of the Southeast Asian nations and their market supply are contributing factors to the rubber price condition of Mon State, a major producing state in Myanmar, traders elaborated.

Rubber price climbed up in the monsoon season on strong demand when there was low supply in the past years. However, the rubber price is likely to go down owing to the Central Bank of Myanmar's currency policy and negative consequences, traders shared their opinions.

Rubber is commonly produced in Mon and Kayin states and Taninthayi, Bago, and Yangon regions in Myanmar. As per 2018-2019 rubber season's data, there were over 1.628 million acres of rubber plantations in Myanmar, with Mon State accounting for 497,153 acres, followed by Taninthayi Region with



A rubber plant is seen with latex at the foot of plant.

348,344 acres and Kayin State with 270,760 acres. About 300,000 tonnes of rubber is produced annually across the country.

Seventy per cent of rubber produced in Myanmar goes to China. It is also shipped to Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Viet

Nam, the Republic of Korea, India, Japan, and other countries.

Myanmar shipped 303,293 metric tonnes of rubber to the foreign trade partners and generated more than US\$449 million revenue in the previous financial year 2020-2021.—NN/GNLM

Pigeon peas price breaks over K1.4 mln per tonne tracking rising black gram prices at Byintnaung wholesale market

THE prices of pigeon peas (red gram) slightly increased over K1.4 million per tonne following the rising black gram prices in the domestic market in spite of the low demand by India, said a trader from Bayintnaung wholesale market in Yangon.

The price of pigeon peas (red gram) touched a high of over K1.41 million per tonne on 18 June 2022.

At present, the price of pigeon peas in India is rising following the relaxation on bean import quota by India, according to Bayintnaung wholesale centre's price data.

The domestic black gram prices climbed as India, the main buyer of Myanmar's black grams, has growing needs in

bean consumption. Additionally, India's government hiked the minimum support price (MSP) of pulses.

India extended relaxations of conditions regarding clearance consignment for black gram and pigeon peas until 31 March 2023.

Myanmar's pigeon peas are primarily shipped to India, and also exported to Singapore, the US, Canada, Pakistan, the UK, and Malaysia. But, the export volume to other countries rather than to India is extremely small.

This year, the G to G pact ensured strong market next five years, along with other relaxations on import quota, Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization under the Ministry of Commerce



Bags of black gram are stored in the warehouse.

stated.

Myanmar's agriculture sector is the backbone of country's economy and it contributes to

over 30 per cent of Gross Domestic Products. The country primarily cultivates paddy, corn, cotton, sugarcane, various puls-

es and beans. Its second largest production is the pulses and beans, counting for 33 per cent of agro products and covering 20 per cent of growing acres. Among them, black gram, pigeon peas and green grams constitutes 72 per cent of bean acreage. Other beans including peanut, chickpea, soyapea, black eyed beans, butter bean and ricebean are also grown in the country.

Myanmar exported more than 6,300 tonnes of pigeon peas to the foreign trade partners between 1 October and 10 June in the current financial year (2022-2023), generating an income of US\$4.6 million, according to the Ministry of Commerce's trade data.—KK/GNLM

OPINION

Thoroughly solve child labour problems to fight poverty

Global countries face problems of child labour which triggers earning of income by school-age children at the jobs for their families but they are absent in classrooms. Especially, a large number of child workers can be seen in less developed countries.

According to the statistics in 2017, children, 29 per cent of the respective countries from Africa downstream Sahara are working for their survival. The children between five and 14 years, accounting for 50 per cent, are working for their earnings in some African countries.

Indeed, as the problem of child labour is a side effect of poverty, the government and the people are to join hands in striving for eliminating poverty under the long-term plan. In so doing, all the education facilities such as schools and libraries are reachable for children. If so, they will have easy access to learning and reading facilities to improve their qualification so as to escape from the life of nightmare.

The larger number of child labour tarnishes the image of relevant countries. Truly, it is necessary to invest development of children and youths without fail for nurturing the qualified human resources of the nation. The children who untimely dropped out of school move to the workplaces which exploit the labour of children with cheap wages. In the long run, those children's works fall into the vicious plights after setting up the families in poverty. The large basic stratum at a low education level is a burden to the nation as well as a danger for a democratic nation. Indeed, as the problem of child labour is a side effect of poverty, the government and the people are to join hands in striving for eliminating poverty under the long-term plan. In so doing, all the education facilities such as schools and libraries are reachable for children. If so, they will have easy access to learning and reading facilities to improve their qualification so as to escape from the life of nightmare.

In a democratic nation, all kinds of opportunities are open to all. If they have the capacity to secure these opportunities, they will have. But they have to try hard for possessing the capacity at first to secure chances. To do so, everybody needs to learn from their childhood without surrendering any challenges while the authorities need to create the proper environments for children to improve their lives.

Glucose meter to soon test for SARS-CoV-2 antibody levels: Study

A COMMERCIAL COVID test can quickly determine if you are infected with SARS-CoV-2. However, if a positive result is obtained, there is no equivalent home test to assess how long you have been protected from reinfection.

In the *Journal of the American Chemical Society (ACS)*, researchers are now reporting simple and accurate glucose meter-based tests that include new fusion proteins. Researchers say that consumers will one day be able to use this assay to monitor their SARS-CoV-2 antibody levels.

Guard against future infections

Vaccines against SARS-CoV-2 and infection with the virus itself can guard against future infections for a while, but it's unclear exactly how long that protection lasts. A good indication of immune protection is a person's level of SARS-CoV-2 antibodies, but the gold standard measurement - the enzyme-linked immunosorbent

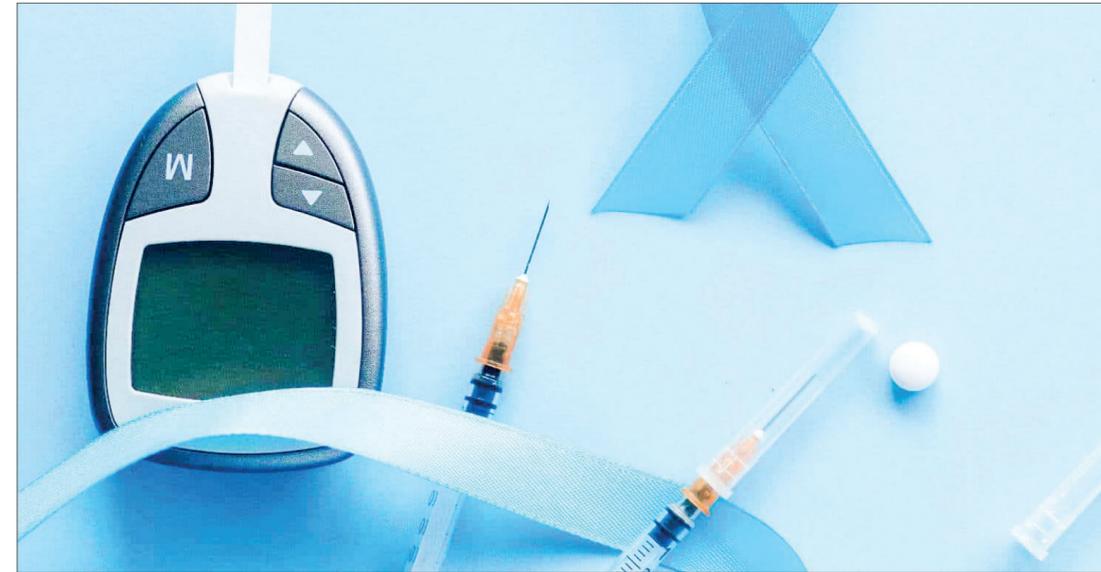
assay (ELISA) - requires expensive equipment and specialized technicians.

Enter glucose meters, which are readily available, easy to use and can be integrated with remote clinical services. Researchers have been adapting these devices to sense other target molecules, coupling detection with glucose production.

For example, if a detection antibody in the test binds to an antibody in a patient's blood, then a reaction occurs that produces glucose - something the device detects very well. Invertase is an attractive enzyme for this type of analysis because it converts sucrose into glucose, but it's difficult to attach the enzyme to detection antibodies with chemical approaches.

A fusion protein

So, Netzahualcoyotl Arroyo-Curras, Jamie B. Spangler and colleagues wanted to see whether producing a fusion protein consisting of both invertase



Researchers are now reporting simple and accurate glucose meter-based tests that include new fusion proteins. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ANI

and a detection antibody would work in an assay that would allow SARS-CoV-2 antibody levels to be

read with a glucose meter. The researchers designed and produced a novel fusion pro-

tein containing both invertase and a mouse antibody that binds to human immunoglobulin (IgG)

antibodies. They showed that the fusion protein bound to human IgGs and successfully produced

US approves Pfizer, Moderna Covid-19 vaccines for youngest children



A child receives a COVID-19 vaccine in Brazil's Sao Paulo. PHOTO: AFP/NELSON ALMEIDA

The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) granted emergency authorisation yesterday for the use of Pfizer and Moderna Covid-19 vaccines in the youngest children, the final age group awaiting immunisation in most countries.

The agency, whose approval is considered the global gold standard, authorised Moderna's two-dose vaccine for children aged six months to five years, and three doses of Pfizer's shots for those between six months and four years old.

"Today is a day of huge

relief for parents and families across America," President Joe Biden said in a statement, adding that vaccinating young children will help "our nation continue to move forward safely".

FDA chief Rober Califf similarly hailed the decision, saying

"vaccines for younger children will provide protection from the most severe outcomes of Covid-19, such as hospitalisation and death".

Pfizer said it plans to submit requests for authorisation to other regulators around the world, including the European Medicines Agency in early July. "Parents in the US now have the option to vaccinate their children under five years of age, and we are working to ensure that other countries worldwide will follow," said Ugur Sahin, CEO and co-founder of Germany's BioNTech, which developed the vaccine together with Pfizer.

The Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) must now also recommend the vaccines before they are put into use in the United States - a final green light that will be given after a meeting of an advisory committee of experts that is expected to be held shortly.

But the government has said that as soon as the FDA

decision was made, 10 million doses could immediately be sent around the country, followed by millions more in subsequent weeks.

Successful trials

Both vaccines are based on messenger RNA, which delivers genetic code for the coronavirus spike protein to human cells that then grow it on their surface, training the immune system to be ready. The technology is now considered the leading Covid-19 vaccination platform.

The vaccines were tested in trials of thousands of children. They were found to cause similar levels of mild side effects as in older age groups and triggered similar levels of antibodies.

Efficacy against infection was higher for Pfizer, with the company placing it at 80% compared to Moderna's estimates of 51% for children aged six-months to two years old and 37% for those aged two to five years.

But the Pfizer figure is based on very few cases and is

thus considered preliminary. It also takes three doses to achieve its protection, with the third shot given eight weeks after the second, which is given three weeks after the first.

Moderna's vaccine should provide strong protection against severe disease after two doses, given four weeks apart, and the company is studying adding a booster that would raise efficacy levels against mild disease.

However, Moderna's decision to go with a higher dose is associated with higher levels of fevers in reaction to the vaccine compared to Pfizer.

The US, home to 20 million children four years and under, has recorded 480 Covid-19 deaths in that group in the pandemic - far higher than even a bad flu season, according to the FDA.

As of May, there have been 45,000 hospitalisations in that group, nearly a quarter of which required intensive care.

SOURCE: AFP

glucose from sucrose. Next, the team made test strips with the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein on them. When dipped in COVID-19 patient samples, the patients' SARS-CoV-2 antibodies bound to the spike protein. Adding the invertase/IgG fusion protein, then sucrose, led to the production of glucose, which could be detected by a glucose meter. They validated the test by performing the analysis with glucose meters on a variety of patient samples, and found that the new assay worked as well as four different ELISAs. The researchers say that the method can also be adapted to test for SARS-CoV-2 variants and other infectious diseases.

The authors acknowledge funding from The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, the Emerson Collective Cancer Research Fund and the National Institutes of Health. The American Chemical Society (ACS) is a nonprofit organization chartered by the US Congress. ACS' mission is to advance the broader chemis-

try enterprise and its practitioners for the benefit of Earth and all its people.

Excellence in science education

The Society is a global leader in promoting excellence in science education and providing access to chemistry-related information and research through its multiple research solutions, peer-reviewed journals, scientific conferences, eBooks and weekly news periodical *Chemical & Engineering News*.

ACS journals are among the most cited, most trusted and most-read within the scientific literature; however, ACS itself does not conduct chemical research. As a leader in scientific information solutions, its CAS division partners with global innovators to accelerate breakthroughs by curating, connecting and analyzing the world's scientific knowledge. ACS' main offices are in Washington, DC, and Columbus, Ohio.

SOURCE: ANI



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 19 June 2022)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 20 June 2022: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing and Magway regions, fairly widespread in Mandalay Region and (Northern and Southern) Shan, Kayah and Kayin states and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of regionally heavyfalls in Rakhine State and isolated heavyfalls in Nay Pyi Taw, Upper Sagaing, Yangon, and Ayeyawady regions and Kachin and Mon states. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar Waters. Wave height will be about (5-8) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuations of increase of rain in Rakhine Coastal areas.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 20 June 2022: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 20 June 2022: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 20 June 2022: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

ENVIRON WORLD

No petrol, no cars: Cubans turn to electric transport

THERE is a new sight on the streets of Havana: increasing numbers of electric vehicles whizzing among the old American cars so emblematic of the Cuban capital.

As fuel shortages and US sanctions take their toll, and even though electricity generation can be spotty, Cubans are turning to smaller, cheaper, plug-in alternatives.

“Gasoline? Imagine. After 50 years battling to get hold of it, I don’t even want to smell it anymore!” taxi driver Sixto Gonzalez, 58, told AFP atop the shining, electric-blue quadricycle with which he moves through the streets at a top speed of about



Electric vehicles are making an appearance in Cuba as fuel prices and US sanctions cripple traditional transport. **PHOTO: AFP**

40 kilometers (25 miles) per hour. Gonzalez has abandoned his old, combustion-engine car — one of about 600,000 registered

on the island of 11.2 million people, according to official data.

The last time he tried to fill it up, he stood in a queue for

eight hours.

By far the majority of cars in circulation in Cuba are American models from the 1950s — before

sanctions started — and compact Ladas from the Soviet era.

Newer models are practically impossible to lay one’s hands on and come with a hefty price tag of between about \$20,000 and \$100,000.

The quadricycle Gonzalez bought, by comparison, can be obtained for between \$4,000 and \$8,000 and though slower, can get four or five people from Point A to Point B. Also increasingly popular are electric motorbikes — of which there are an estimated 40,000 to 50,000 in Cuba — and three-wheelers all the more frequently seen dragging a carriage full of passengers or goods. —AFP

Italy’s heatwave sparks emergencies, threatens agriculture

A heatwave swept across Italy this week, sparking emergencies in at least four cities and putting half of the agricultural production in the north at drought risk.

An orange heat emergency, the second highest emergency level, was declared Friday in the northern cities of Brescia and Turin, as well as Florence and Perugia in central Italy. The most vulnerable — the elderly, children, the chronically ill, and pregnant women — are advised to stay indoors during the hottest hours of the day.

Three of these four cities declared a 24-hour emergency status. In Turin, however, the status is predicted to continue for several days and escalate into “red” on Sunday, the most

severe status.

Temperatures in some parts of the north topped 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit) Friday.

The agricultural association Agricoltori Italiani said as much as half of the agricultural production in northern Italy was now at risk due to drought conditions.

It said the precipitation volume in these areas so far this year was only half of last year’s volume, and estimated 1 billion euros (1.1 billion US dollars) in damages.

According to Alberto Cirio, governor of the Piedmont region where Turin is located, the Po River, Italy’s longest waterway crucial to agricultural irrigation, is 72 per cent below its normal water level. —Xinhua

32 killed in floods in India’s Assam, Meghalaya

FLOODS in two northeastern states of India, Assam and Meghalaya, have killed 32 people in the past two days, officials said Saturday.

According to an Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) bulletin, 13 people were killed in the state, while over 1.8 million people were affected by the ongoing flooding in 28 districts.

Officials at the State Disaster Management Authority of Meghalaya (SDMAM) said 19 people were killed in the state in two days.

“Fourteen people, including a six-month-old infant, died in the rain-induced floods and landslides in the state on Friday, thus taking the death toll



Men ride a motorbike past a bus along a waterlogged road following a heavy rainfall in Guwahati. Guwahati is a sprawling city beside the Brahmaputra River in the northeast Indian state of Assam. **PHOTO: BIJU BORO / AFP**

in the past two days to 19,” an official of SDMAM said.

The flooding has affected nearly 3,000 villages in Assam and 108,104 people are taking shelter in relief camps.

Officials said water has inundated 43,338 hectares of cropland and damaged crops. Several embankments, culverts and roads have been damaged. —Xinhua

25 dead, four million stranded in Bangladesh floods

MONSOON storms in Bangladesh have killed at least 25 people and unleashed devastating floods that left more than four million others stranded, officials said Saturday.

Floods are a regular menace to millions of people in low-lying Bangladesh, but experts say climate change is increasing their frequency, ferocity and unpredictability.

Relentless downpours over

the past week have inundated vast stretches of the country’s northeast with troops deployed to evacuate households cut off from neighbouring communities.

Schools have been turned into relief shelters to house entire villages inundated in a matter of hours by rivers that suddenly burst their banks.

“The whole village went under water by early Friday and we

all got stranded,” said Lokman, whose family lives in Companyganj village.

“After waiting whole day on the roof of our home, a neighbour rescued us with a makeshift boat. My mother said she has never seen such floods in her entire life,” the 23-year-old added.

Asma Akter, another woman rescued from the rising waters, said her family had not been able to eat for two days. —AFP



A woman cools off with water during hot weather at the Barcaccia fountain in Rome, Italy, 17 June 2022. **PHOTO BY ALBERTO LINGRIA/XINHUA**



A health worker inoculates a resident with a dose of the AstraZeneca/Oxford COVID-19 vaccine inside a Catholic church turned into a vaccination centre in Manila on 21 May 2021. **PHOTO: TEDALJIBE / AFP**

Philippines surpasses COVID-19 vaccination target

THE Philippines on Saturday said it has surpassed its target of fully vaccinating over 70 million, or 77.78 per cent of its target population with the COVID-19 shots.

As of Friday, the National Vaccination Operations Centre reported that 70,005,247 Filipinos have received the two-dose vaccine, including more than 3.2 million children aged five to 11 and nearly 9.5 million minors aged 12 to 17.

Health Undersecretary

Maria Rosario Vergeire urged people on Saturday to get the booster shots to sustain their immunity amid a spike of COVID-19 cases in the country.

Vergeire said the country now tallies an average of 350 cases daily, 50 to 60 per cent higher than the previous week. In Metro Manila, the daily average was 102 cases last week, but now it increased to around 170, she added.

“The number of cases is in-

creasing, albeit slowly. We need to be cautious,” she told a televised press conference, warning the cases could reach 800 to 1,200 per day by the end of June if the current number of cases continues to increase.

The Philippines has nearly 3.7 million confirmed COVID-19 cases, including 60,467 deaths. The country reported the highest single-day tally on 15 January this year, with 39,004 new cases. —Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Morocco's COVID-19 cases soars again

THE number of COVID-19 cases in Morocco soars again with 1,956 new cases recorded on Saturday.

Morocco reported 1,734 new COVID-19 cases on Friday, and 1,568 on Thursday, according to the Ministry of Health.

The North African country raised its alert level for COVID-19 from green to orange earlier this month, as cases spiked again.

As of Saturday, the number of COVID-19 cases reported since the start of the pandemic rose to 1,182,776, while recoveries increased to 1,157,230, the ministry said in a statement. —Xinhua

New Zealand reports 4,404 community cases of COVID-19

NEW Zealand reported 4,404 community cases of COVID-19 on Saturday, said the Ministry of Health in a statement.

The Ministry reported 4,404 community cases, 356 current hospitalizations, and 11 deaths from COVID-19 on Saturday.

OF the 4,404 community cases of COVID-19, 1,318 cases were from the largest city Auckland.

In addition, there were 50 new cases of COVID-19 reported at the New Zealand border on Saturday, according to the ministry.

New Zealand has reported 1,263,333 confirmed cases of COVID-19 since the beginning of the pandemic.

New Zealand is currently under the orange settings of the COVID-19 Protection Framework, where there is no limit for gatherings.

—Xinhua

Warehouse business catches fire, boosted by pandemic, e-commerce

THE rise of e-commerce and the logistical nightmare created by the Covid-19 pandemic have caused a surge in demand for warehouse space in the United States, and big investment funds have taken note.

“It’s been a tremendous struggle to find the appropriate location for clients,” said Michael Schipper of Blau & Berg, a commercial real estate specialist in New Jersey and New York.

Available space has been dwindling steadily for a year and a half, and the vacancy rate is now 3.4 per cent, although developers delivered 90 million square feet of new warehouse space in the first three months of the year, according to commercial real estate firm Jones Lang LaSalle.

Demand is so strong that purchase prices have tripled or quadrupled in just six years in northern New Jersey.



Prices for warehouse space has surged, but commercial real estate executives warn they won't keep going up. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Nationally, average rental costs have jumped 22 per cent in two years, according to analytics firm Beroe.

“Demand for space from logistics and distribution activities driven by e-commerce industry” is the major factor in the US market, according to Beroe,

which notes that demand has exceeded supply for 18 months.

In addition, unlike traditional storage sites, fulfilling online orders requires technologically advanced warehouses, said Mark Manduca, chief investment officer at GXO, a supply chain management company. —AFP

India logs 12,899 fresh COVID-19 cases, 15 deaths

INDIA on Sunday reported 12,899 fresh COVID-19 cases and 15 fatalities, according to the Union Health Ministry data.

On Saturday, the country crossed the 13,000-mark for the first time after more than three months with India reporting 13,216 fresh infections in the last 24 hours.

Cumulatively, India's COVID infection count has surged to 43,296,692 since March 2020 when the pandemic emerged in the country.



With over 12,000 fresh cases, India's active caseload has gone up to 72,474, which accounts for 0.17 per cent of the total cases.

The government data also informed that as many as 8,518 recoveries were registered in the past 24 hours, thereby, increasing the total recoveries to 4,26,99,363. The recovery rate stands at 98.62

per cent at present.

The daily positivity rate stands at 2.89 per cent while the weekly positivity rate is 2.50 per cent.

In India, the fresh infection was detected after conducting 4,46,387 tests in the last 24 hours, taking the total number of COVID-19 tests to 85.78 crores. —ANI

A girl walks past a poster at a vaccination centre in New Delhi on 10 April 2022, after government announced the paid precaution dose against the coronavirus to be available for everyone above 18 years of age at private vaccination centers. **PHOTO: MONEY SHARMA / AFP**

ECONOMY WORLD

Putin elaborates stance on political, economic issues at St Petersburg forum

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin explained Russia's stance and policy on hotspot political and economic issues during the 25th St Petersburg International Economic Forum on Friday.

At the plenary session of the forum, Putin recalled that the surge in commodity and raw material prices occurred long before the Russian special military operation in Ukraine, underlining that the current situation has nothing to do with Russia but was caused by "many years of irresponsible macroeconomic policies" of the Group of Seven.

In Putin's view, some Western countries consider the Rus-

sian operation in Ukraine as "a lifeline that allows them to blame others for their own miscalculations."

Speaking about the future of the Russian economy, Putin said his country will never follow the path of self-isolation and autarky.

Putin announced cheap loans to boost industrial production, set the task of mastering all the critical technologies for manufacturing key products, and asked the government to make new fiscal rules to fortify the foundation of economic growth.

The Russian leader said some Western countries with



People in a supermarket in Moscow. PHOTO: AFP/SCANPIX

"outdated geopolitical illusions" intentionally undermine the principles of the global economic

system.

As a result, many trade, production and logistics ties that

were previously disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic are now going through new tests, he told the audience.

Putin said there are revolutionary changes in geopolitics, the global economy, the technological sphere and the entire system of international relations, but some Western countries are trying to counteract this inexorable course of history.

As for the global food shortage, Putin believed that the most important task for the entire world now is to increase the supply of food to the global market, including to countries that are desperately in need. —Xinhua

Russia to temporarily suspend gas supply via Turkish Stream pipeline

RUSSIAN gas giant Gazprom announced Saturday that it will stop gas delivery via both strings of the Turkish Stream pipeline from 21 June to 28 June due to scheduled annual maintenance.

The suspension was agreed in advance by all interested parties, Gazprom said in a statement.

The Turkish Stream pipeline via the Black seabed consists of two strings, with one supplying gas to Turkish consumers and the other delivering energy to countries in southern and southeastern Europe.

The pipeline began operation in January 2020 with a total capacity of 31.5 billion cubic me-

ters annually. Earlier this week, Gazprom said it would significantly reduce gas delivery to Europe via the Nord Stream 1 pipeline to no more than 67 million cubic meters per day, citing the failure of Siemens, the manufacturer of the gas turbine engines, to provide the overhaul service in time. —Xinhua

S Korea worries about economic slowdown: gov't report



Pedestrians crossing a road in front of the Bank of Korea headquarters in Seoul. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

SOUTH Korea was worried about an economic slowdown due to surging inflation and slower export growth, a government report said Friday.

The Ministry of Economy and Finance said in its monthly

economic report, called Green Book, that it was worried about an economic slowdown, driven by slumping investment, lower export growth and continued high inflation.

It marked the first time this

year that the ministry expressed its worry about an economic slump in the monthly report.

The daily average export grew 10.7 per cent in May from a year earlier, after expanding 15.3 per cent in April.

For the first 10 days of June, the outbound shipment tumbled 12.7 per cent owing to fewer business days.

Facility investment fell 7.5 per cent in April from a month earlier, keeping a downward trend for the third consecutive month.

Consumer prices advanced 5.4 per cent in May from a year earlier, after gaining 4.8 per cent in April and 4.1 per cent in March respectively.

The ministry revised up its 2022 consumer price inflation outlook by 2.5 percentage points to 4.7 per cent. —Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sri Lanka troops open fire to contain fuel riots

SRI Lanka's military opened fire to contain rioting at a fuel station, officials said Sunday as unprecedented queues for petrol and diesel were seen across the bankrupt country.

Troops fired in Visuvamadu, 365 kilometres (228 miles) north of Colombo, on Saturday night as their guard point was pelted with stones, army spokesman Nilantha Premaratne said.

"A group of 20 to 30 people pelted stones and damaged an army truck," Premaratne told AFP.

Police said four civilians and three soldiers were wounded when the army opened fire for the first time to quell unrest linked to the worsening economic crisis.

As the pump ran out of petrol, motorists began to protest and the situation escalated into a clash with troops, police said.

Sri Lanka is suffering its worst economic crisis since independence, with the country unable to find dollars to import essentials, including food, fuel and medicines.

The nation's 22 million population has been enduring acute shortages and long queues for scarce supplies while President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has for months resisted calls to step down over mismanagement. —AFP

China's ports log container throughput growth in first five months

CHINA'S container throughput at ports recorded stable expansion in the first five months of the year, data from the Ministry of Transport showed.

During the January-May period, the container handling volume at China's ports rose 2.3 per cent from one year earlier to 116.48 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs), according to the ministry. Cargo throughput at the country's ports topped 6.25 billion tonnes in the same period, edging down 0.5 per cent year on year, the data showed.

In May alone, China's ports handled more than 1.34 billion tonnes of cargo, while container throughput stood at 25.43 million TEUs, both registering month-on-month growth, said the ministry. —Xinhua

Japan's NTT to begin remote work as norm for 30,000 employees in July

NIPPON Telegraph and Telephone Corp. will in July begin remote work as its new norm for around 30,000 of its domestic employees, treating attendance as a business trip and allowing for work and commute from anywhere in Japan, even by air, a source familiar with the matter said Saturday.

The telecom giant will have no limit set for transportation expenses and will pay for accommodations when employees commute to work after the company, like many other firms, has introduced different working styles as part of measures against the coronavirus pandemic, the source said. —Kyodo

China's Yunnan launches shopping festival to boost consumption

SOUTHWEST China's Yunnan Province has launched a month-long shopping festival starting Saturday to stimulate consumption and promote economic recovery.

Governments and financial institutions in Yunnan will issue more than 8 million coupons of various types during the coming month.

Li Chenyang, director of Yunnan provincial department of commerce, said the vitality of the trade sector is gradually recovering as the epidemic wanes, adding that a province-wide shopping festival is conducive to releasing suppressed consumer demand. —Xinhua

Italy's Eni joins giant Qatar gas project after Russian cuts



Qatar's Energy Minister and president and CEO of QatarEnergy Saad Sherida al-Kaabi (R) and Claudio Descalzi, CEO of Italian multinational oil and gas company ENI, attend the signing ceremony for their joint venture. **PHOTO: AFP**

ITALIAN company Eni on Sunday joined Qatar Energy's project to expand production from the world's biggest natural gas field, days after Russia slashed supplies to Italy.

Eni will own a stake of just over three per cent in the \$28 billion North Field East project, Qatar Energy's CEO said at a signing ceremony in Doha.

Qatar announced France's TotalEnergies as its first, and largest, foreign partner on the development last week, with a 6.25 per cent share.

More companies are set to be named.

"Today I'm pleased... to announce the selection of Eni as a partner in this

unique strategic project," said Energy Minister Saad Sherida al-Kaabi, who is also president and CEO of state-owned Qatar Energy.

The project's LNG — the cooled form of gas that makes it easier to transport — is expected to come on line in 2026. It will help Qatar increase its liquefied natural gas production by more than 60 per cent by 2027, TotalEnergies chief executive Patrick Pouyane told AFP last week.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has injected urgency into efforts around the world to develop new energy sources as Western countries try to reduce their reliance on Russia. —AFP

The battle to build a child-friendly metaverse

AS a young woman straps on her vest and headset and becomes immersed in a virtual world, Mainak Chaudhuri talks excitedly about the potential of the technology.

"This is the first step towards the metaverse," Chaudhuri of French startup Actronika told AFP at this week's VivaTech trade show in Paris.

The vest can give users the sensation of being buffeted by the wind or even feel a monster's breath on their back, and

it can be used to enhance movie watching, education or gaming. It is a family-friendly vision of the 3D immersive internet, now widely known as the metaverse, and sits well with some interactive experiences already widely available for children — like virtual trips to museums.

But campaigners and experts are increasingly warning that the wider ecosystem needs to start acting on child safety to ensure the benign vision



Campaigners and experts warn that the wider ecosystem of the metaverse needs to start acting to ensure child safety. **PHOTO: AFP**

is realised. "The biggest challenge is kids are getting exposed to content that

is not intended for them," said Kavya Pearlman, whose NGO XR Safety Ini-

tiative campaigns to ensure immersive technology will be safe for everyone.

The problems she envisages range from children being exposed to sexual and violent material, to worries over young people being used as content creators or having inappropriate contact with adults.

Even though the metaverse has not yet been widely adopted and the technology is still in development, early users have already brought to light serious issues. —AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA HIDAYAH VOY.NO. (KHDY0320N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KOTA HIDAYAH VOY.NO. (KHDY0320N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **20-6-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL LINES

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR

MINISTRY OF ENERGY

MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE

(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)

(13/2022-2023)

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in Myanmar Kyats.

Sr.No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(1)	DMP/L-164(22-23)CAP	Desktop Computer, Laptop Computer, UPS & Note Book Computer (21) Items	Ks

2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available during office hours commencing from **20 June 2022** at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No. (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

3. The interested Bidders should submit the **Technical Specifications and Commercial Quotation with Original Bid Bond in each separate sealed envelopes** on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than **12:00 pm on 4, July 2022**.

4. Tender Closing Date & Time — **4-7-2022, 12:00 pm**

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GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Syrian desert monastery seeks visitors after years of war

A Syrian desert monastery that was once a hub for interfaith dialogue, attracting tens of thousands, has reopened to visitors after more than a decade of war and isolation.

“We yearn for people to return. We want to see them pray and meditate with us once more, so that they may find here a space for calm, silence and contemplation,” Father Jihad Youssef told AFP, his voice echoing through the dark, empty halls of the monastery he heads.



Deir Mar Moussa Al-Habashi (St Moses the Ethiopian) is a seventh century monastery perched atop a barren, rocky hill 100 kilometres north of the Syria capital Damascus near the desert in the Nabk area. **PHOTO: LOUAI BESHARA/ AFP**

In 2010, 30,000 people visited Deir Mar Moussa Al-Habashi (St Moses the Ethiopian), a 7th century monastery perched atop a barren, rocky hill about 100 kilometres (62 miles) north of Damascus.

But the onset of civil war in 2011 and the disappearance of Father Paolo Dall'Oglio, who had led and revived the community since 1982, scared away visitors for nearly a decade. With security having improved in surrounding areas, the mon-

astery reopened its doors to visitors this month.

They must climb 300 steps to reach the stone monastery, built on the ruins of a Roman tower and partly carved into the rock.

It has an 11th century church adorned with icons, ancient murals and writing in Arabic, Syriac and Greek that says “God is love” and “in the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful” — a phrase that serves as Muslim praise to God. —AFP

36.5 mln children displaced worldwide, highest since World War II

AN unprecedented 36.5 million children were displaced by conflict, violence and other crises by the end of 2021, the highest number since World War II, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) reported Friday.

The figure, which increased by 2.2 million in 2021, includes 13.7 million child refugees and asylum-seekers and nearly 22.8 million internally displaced due

to conflict and violence, according to the agency's press release.

Children displaced by climate and environmental shocks and disasters, and those displaced in 2022, including by the Russia-Ukraine conflict, are not included in the report.

The record number is a direct result of cascading crises, including “acute and protracted conflicts such as in Afghanistan, and fragility in countries like the

Democratic Republic of the Congo or Yemen — all exacerbated by the destructive impacts of climate change,” the report said.

UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell said she hopes the alarming number will move governments to prevent children from being displaced and ensure the access of those displaced to education, protection and other critical services. —Xinhua

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Danube offers lifeline for Ukrainian grain exports



The Danube is the second-longest river in Europe, after the Volga in Russia. **PHOTO: AFP**

IN the Ukrainian port of Izmail, on the Danube river that marks the border with Romania, rows of trucks filled with grain stand in line.

Dozens of kilometres (miles) from there, at Romania's port of Sulina, where the river flows into the Black Sea, ships are waiting

to be loaded.

Sailors say there have never been so many ships of all kinds and under so many flags dotting the horizon at Sulina.

They are waiting to reach Ukraine to be loaded with food — ever since Moscow's blockade of its neighbour's seaports has

paralysed grain exports from one of the world's largest producers.

“The alternative is the Danube. The big problem is the capacity of the infrastructure on the river,” Yuriy Dimchoglo, former vice-president of the Odessa regional council, told AFP.

Since Russia invaded Ukraine in February, only 1.5 million tonnes of grain have been exported via the Danube, he said, while 20 to 25 million tonnes are blocked in the country, according to the government.

Some 35 kilometres (20 miles) from Izmail port, farmer Vyacheslav Zybakin said he had still not shipped any of his produce — “not even a kilogramme” — via the Danube because purchase prices were below operating costs. —AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ukraine introduces visa regime for Russian citizens

UKRAINIAN Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal said Friday that the cabinet has decided to introduce a visa regime for Russian citizens starting from 1 July.

The decision was adopted at the request of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, Shmyhal wrote on Telegram.

Earlier in the day, Zelensky said the country has decided to end visa-free travel for Russian citizens due to the “unprecedented threats to the national security, sovereignty and territorial integrity” of Ukraine.

Previously, Russian citizens did not need visas to enter Ukraine, and they were allowed to stay for less than 90 days in the 180-day period from the date of the first entry. —Xinhua

Ukraine to fight decision to stop it hosting next Eurovision

UKRAINE on Friday condemned the European Broadcasting Union's decision to strip it of the right to host next year's Eurovision song contest on security grounds after Russia's invasion. “We will demand to change this decision, because we believe that we will be able to fulfil all the commitments... We demand additional negotiations on hosting Eurovision-2023 in Ukraine,” Ukrainian Culture Minister Oleksandr Tkachenko said in a statement.

Earlier Friday the EBU in Geneva said that given the current circumstances in war-torn Ukraine “the security and operational guarantees required for a broadcaster to host, organise and produce the Eurovision Song Contest... cannot be fulfilled” in Ukraine.

Instead Britain, whose singer was runner-up in this year's contest, is being considered as a possible replacement host.

Ukraine's Kalush Orchestra last month won the world's biggest live music event, and according to tradition, the country should host next year's competition.

But the EBU said “given the ongoing war” since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February, that would not be possible.

The authorities in Kyiv said the EBU had got it all wrong. “Ukraine does not agree with the nature of the decision taken by the European Broadcasting Union,” Tkachenko added, assuring that his country had “fulfilled all the conditions” and “provided answers and guarantees on safety standards” for the contest. —AFP

UN expert criticizes UK government's Rwanda asylum plan

A human rights expert of the United Nations (UN) urged the United Kingdom (UK) on Friday to halt plans to transfer asylum seekers to Rwanda and voiced serious concern that the plan violates international law.

"There are serious risks that the international law principle of non-refoulement will be breached by forcibly transferring asylum seekers to Rwanda," especially women and children, Siobhan Mullally, UN special rapporteur on trafficking in persons, said.

The Rwanda asylum plan, announced by the UK government in April, is supposed to give asylum seekers who cross the Channel to the UK a one-way ticket to Rwanda to claim asylum there instead.

The first flight due to take the asylum seekers to Rwanda was cancelled earlier this week after a last-minute intervention from the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) led to fresh challenges in the UK courts.

The UN special rapporteur welcomed the ECHR's urgent interim measures, saying that



Migrants are helped by RNLI (Royal National Lifeboat Institution) lifeboat before being taken to a beach in Dungeness, on the south-east coast of England, on 24 November 2021, after crossing the English Channel. PHOTO: BEN STANSALL / AFP

transferring asylum seekers to third countries does nothing to prevent or combat human trafficking. "In fact, it is likely to push

desperate people into riskier and more dangerous situations."

Mullally voiced her concern that the arrangement fails to

safeguard the rights of asylum seekers, who are victims of trafficking and seeking protection in the UK. —Xinhua

Hongkong Post to issue stamps to commemorate 25th anniversary of HKSAR's establishment



A young boy (L) looks at a 1:1 scale robotic tyrannosaurus rex dinosaur displayed in Hong Kong on 6 June 2022, as part of celebrations marking the 25th anniversary of the establishment of The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. PHOTO: PETER PARKS / AFP

HONGKONG Post announced on Friday that two sets of commemorative stamps, including one on the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), will be released for sale on 1 July.

The set of commemorative stamps on the theme of "The 25th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region" will be issued in four denominations, a souvenir sheet and other philatelic products,

according to an official press release.

The commemorative stamps highlight the practice of the "one country, two systems" principle in Hong Kong, the implementation of the national security law in Hong Kong and the improvement to the electoral system. The stamps also feature the cultivation of a sense of national identity in students and Hong Kong's proactive integration into the national development, which will herald huge opportunities for young people and businesses in the decades ahead. Since the stationing of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Hong Kong Garrison in the HKSAR in 1997, the PLA Hong Kong Garrison has always been an important cornerstone for maintaining Hong Kong's prosperity and stability. —Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Biden calls on US to acknowledge and condemn history of slavery

US President Joe Biden on Friday urged Americans to "acknowledge and condemn the history of slavery".

Biden, in a proclamation on Juneteenth Day, also called upon the United States to "recognize how the impact of America's original sin remains."

"This Juneteenth, we are freshly reminded that the poisonous ideology of racism has not yet been defeated — it only hides," he said. The federal holiday came a month after a white male fatally shot 10 African Americans at a grocery store in Buffalo, New York in a racist attack. —Xinhua

Lebanon's caretaker PM calls for quick appointment of new gov't head

LEBANESE caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati on Friday called on all political parties to expedite the selection of a new prime minister who can form a new cabinet capable of dealing with Lebanon's steep crisis.

Mikati made the remarks at a university graduation ceremony in northern Lebanon, according to a statement by Lebanon's Council of Ministers, or Lebanon's cabinet.

Lebanon does not have the luxury of time to address its problems, he said, adding any delay in addressing the country's crisis will cost the Lebanese more in the future. —Xinhua

Thousands join S'pore gay rights rally

THOUSANDS of Singaporeans dressed in pink gathered at a park on Saturday calling for greater recognition of LGBTQ rights, the first such rally since 2019 after Covid-19 restrictions were eased.

While the city-state is prosperous and developed, so-

cial attitudes remain conservative and sex between men is still illegal, although the statute is not actively enforced.

Singapore's "Pink Dot" gay rights rally started in 2009 and has regularly attracted sizeable crowds de-

spite a backlash from some quarters.

After holding online-only events during the pandemic, large numbers turned out today as the rally returned to a downtown park — the only place in the city-state where protests are allowed without

a police permit.

"I want to have my voice heard, I want to know that we matter and I want to have equality in Singapore," Susan Helen, a 39-year-old business manager taking part, said.

"We are human beings, so we just want to be treated

equal in the face of the law. I want to be able to marry my partner."

Others at the rally waved rainbow flags, danced and brandished placards with slogans such as "We're not nuclear, we are queer", and "Power to the queers". —AFP



More than half of footballers playing at the European Championship and African Cup of Nations suffered online abuse, a study published by FIFA revealed. **PHOTO: FOR ILLUSTRATION PURPOSES ONLY/AFP**

More than half of footballers suffer from online abuse: FIFA study

MORE than half of footballers playing at the European Championship and African Cup of Nations suffered online abuse, a study published by FIFA revealed yesterday. Much of the abuse came from fans of the players' home nations.

"Homophobic (40%) and racist (38%) comments provided the majority of the abuse," said the independent report published to coincide with the United Nations International Day for Countering Hate Speech.

Using artificial intelligence to track over 400,000 posts on social media platforms during the semi-finals and finals of Euro 2020 and 2021 African Cup of Nations 2021 "over 50% of players

received some form of discriminatory abuse".

FIFA said with the World Cup in Qatar just five months away, they will work with players union FIFPRO to implement a plan on how to protect players from abuse on social media.

This will involve scanning recognised hate speech terms published to identified social media accounts, and once detected, prevent that comment from being seen by the recipient and their followers.

"Although the offending message remains visible to the person who originally made the comment, its visibility and reach will be significantly reduced," said FIFA.—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 Club to compete in Asian Women's Club Championship 2022

THE Myanmar women's football club will compete in the Asian Women's Club Championship 2022 organized by the Asian Football Confederation.

Defending champion of the 2018-2019 Myanmar Women's League Champion ISPE (Institute of Sports and Physical Education) Team will compete in the tourney. The tourna-

ment will be divided into two zones. Four teams will compete in the West Asian Zone, with the top team from each zone competing in the finals. Myanmar Club is in the Eastern Asian Zone together with Thailand, and China Taipei. Meanwhile, India, Iran, Jordan

and Uzbekistan are placed in the Western Asian Zone.

The zonal tournaments will be held in August. Western

Asian Zone matches will be hosted by Uzbekistan, and Eastern Asian Zone matches by Thailand.

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) launched the tournament in 2019. Football Clubs from Japan,

South Korea, China, and Australia participated in the previous tourney.

In 2020, only the Western Asian Zone Games were held in 2021 due to the COVID-19 epidemic. This year, the confederation will organized both Eastern and Western Asian Zones, officials said.—
K o Nyi Lay/
GNLM



Champions ISPE (Institute of Sports and Physical Education) Team celebrates victory together with MFF officials in 2018-2019 Myanmar Women's League Champion. **PHOTO: MNL**