

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IX, No. 52, 9th Waxing of Nayon 1384 ME

www.gnlm.com.mm

Tuesday, 7 June 2022

Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

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

Peace Talks Team, NDAA (Mongla) hold second-day meeting



The NDAA Vice-Chair (left photo) and the government Peace Talks Team leader (right photo) sign the agreements deliberated during the three-day peace talks.

THE second-day meeting of the government Peace Talks Team and the delegation led by the vice-chairman of the National Democratic Alliance Army-NDAA (Mongla) 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 **SEE PAGE-2**

Press Release

MOFA protests and objects in the strongest terms to irresponsible and reckless statements and remarks made by Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France, Embassy of France in Yangon, United Nations Secretary General's and US State Department's Spokespersons

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs refers to the statements issued by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs of the French Republic on 4 June 2022, the Embassy of France in Yangon on 4 June 2022 and remarks of the United Nations Secretary General's Spokesperson on 3 June 2022 and the US State Department's Spokesperson on 6 June 2022, regarding the verdict of four terrorists including Phyzo Zeyar Thaw and Kyaw Min Yu. The Ministry underscores that in Myanmar, as an independent and sovereign state, the incumbent Government has every right to execute all powers and authorities vested by the State Constitution (2008). The Ministry also wishes to highlight that every citizen is equally **SEE PAGE-3**

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Invitation to basic education staff absent from duties extended

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

To date, 2,482 teachers have contacted there.

For teachers who wish to report but are unable to report within the deadline due to transport and other difficulties, the reporting deadline has been extended to 7-6-2022.

Information Team
State Administration Council

Peace Talks Team, NDAA (Mongla) hold second-day meeting

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as the leader of the Peace Talks Team, SAC Member Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun, NSPNC Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naung, Vice-Chairman of the National Democratic Alliance Army-NDAA (Mongla) U San Pae, General Secretary U Kyi Myint, Secretary (2) U Ah Lu, Head of Communications Division U Sai Mauk.

During the meeting, they discussed the peace and development-related affairs and NSPNC member Lt-Gen Win Bo Shein reported on the findings of the analysis team of NSPNC in the agreements of Part I/II/III of the Union Accord and Table-2 in Part III to be discussed. They then approved and signed the agreements received in the three-day meeting.

Then, NDAA Vice-Chair-



man U San Pae and Peace Talks Team Leader Lt-Gen Yar Pyae

made concluding remarks and gave books marking the Dia-

mond Jubilee Union Day and Myanmar Encyclopaedia vol-

ume 1 published by the Ministry of Information. — MNA

Lacquerware businesspersons expect economic recovery in high season



PHOTO: KANU

SOME tourists started to visit Bagan temples in monsoon season. High season is coming up so tourism industry and lacquerware business are expected to raise its head again, lacquerware businesspersons shared their opinions.

In a bid to facilitate trade flow and help local tourism in-

dustry revive, the temporary suspension on international passenger flights were lifted from 17 April. Temples, pagodas, cultural heritage sites and other recreation destinations are also reopened in line with COVID-19 rules and regulations. The country has smooth flow of exports and imports and resumption of

tourism industry at present.

Bagan cultural heritage zone, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, was crowded with the homegrown visitors, allowing the locals to do a roaring business. It also helps ease the financial constraints during the COVID-19 pandemic. As Bagan and lacquerware business are

coexisting, tourism recovery will generate business opportunities in Bagan cultural zone.

“Inflows of local travelers and tourists are peak during the Myanmar traditional festivals. Bustling trade is also seen at that time. During Thingyan holiday in April, domestic tourism grew unexpectedly and businesses relying on tourism industry boomed. The locals rarely purchase lacquerware. Nevertheless, tourists eye Myanmar arts and crafts. Therefore, lacquerware business is solely relying on the tourists. Small number of local visitors and tourists are witnessed in the zone at weekends. When tourism peak season comes, tourism industry will revive,” said U Maung Maung, chair of Myanmar Lacquerware Association.

There are 14 lacquerware big shops and many small shops working on a manageable scale

in Bagan and NyaungU towns. Lacquer crafts are produced with the raw materials from the villages nearby and the business is passing down from old generations to future generations.

Approximately 100 types of lacquerware with creative designs are available in Bagan. Foreigners appreciate lacquer wine-cup, mug, lacquer bowl of small and large size, trays, container, box, souvenirs and other decorations with cultural presence of Bagan era. The prices of lacquerware ranged between K1,000 and K3 million.

Local visitors stimulated tourism industry and they enjoyed the long-awaited trips when Bagan temples are allowed for visit. More tourist arrivals are expected in the coming peak season by means of air travel, the lacquerware businesspersons predicted.—Nyein Thu (MNA)/GNLM

We will have to continue to consolidate the strength of the national unity in the future also

AS for the country which is a heterogeneous society, historical lessons have taught us that only the national unity can ensure the non-disintegration of the Union and the perpetuation of sovereignty. We will have to continue to consolidate the strength of the national unity in the future also.

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

SAC members, union ministers attend 48th inter-state/region boxing finals

THE 48th Inter-State/Region Boxing Championship Finals and Awards Ceremony was held at the Boxing Training Ground at Wunna Theikdi Stadium yesterday afternoon.

The ceremony was attended by Members of the State Administration Council: Daw Aye Nu Sein, Jeng Phang Naw Taung; U Maung Har; U Sai Lone Hsai, Saw Daniel, Dr Banyar Aung Moe and U Shwe Kyein, and Union Ministers: U Chitt Naing, U Ko Ko, Dr Charlie Than, Dr Myo Thein Kyaw, U Min Thein Zan, Dr Thet Thet Khine and Dr Htay Aung, and Deputy Ministers: Daw Than Than Lin, U Than Aung Kyaw, U San Lwin, U Aye Tun, Dr Zaw Myint, U Myo Hlaing, U Zaw Aye Maung, directors-general, President of the Boxing Federation U Kyaw Kyaw Soe, and sports

enthusiasts.

In yesterday's finals, Lamin Ko Ko (Yangon Region) defeated Aye Ko Zin (Kayin State) in the men's 52-kg; Aung Soe Moe (Mandalay Region) defeated Zwe Wai Hlyan Phyo (Nay Pyi Taw) in the men's 64-kg; In the men's 69-kg, Kyaw Swa Tun (Mandalay Region) defeated Thet Wai (Kayin State); In the men's 75-kg, Aung Thu (Mandalay Region) defeated Saw Galel Htun (Kayin State); In the women's 45-kg, Myint Yadana San (Taninthayi Region) defeated Thang Nwan Keim (Mandalay Region); In the women's 48-kg, Thin Thin Khaing (Magway Region) defeated Pan Ei Phyu (Sagaing Region); In the women's 57-kg, Htet Htet Win (Taninthayi Region) defeated Pyae Pyae Win (Sagaing Region); In the women's 60-kg, Mu Sein



The SAC member presents the championship cup at the event.

Mya (Shan State) defeated Hnin Thiri San (Mon State).

The award-giving ceremony

was held after the competition, and the Union ministers and the members of the State Admin-

istration Council presented the winners with medals and cash awards. — MNA

Press Release

FROM PAGE-1

subject to the law while everyone is treated equally under the law and afforded protection for fundamental Human Rights. Additionally, as Myanmar judicial system is independent, it ensures that laws are equal and just for all citizens residing in the Union. Phyo Zeyar Thaw and Kyaw Min Yu were sentenced to death after being found guilty of breaching the Counter-Terrorism Law Section 49 (a), 50 (i) and 50 (j). Accordingly, the sentences were passed as they were proved to be masterminds of orchestrating full-scale terrorist attacks against innocent civilians to instill fear and disrupt peace and stability. As such, irresponsible statements and remarks of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs of the French Republic, Embassy of France in Yangon, Office of the Spokesperson of the United Nations and the State Department of the United States of America construe to be abetting terrorism and purely neglecting the continued violent attacks committed

by terrorist groups of the so-called NUG and PDFs which have resulted in the deaths of many innocent lives, injuries and destruction of both private and public properties.

Furthermore, the Ministry expresses its utmost indignation and strong protest to the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs of the French Republic and the Embassy of France for referring to the State Administration Council as an 'illegitimate military regime' which is totally unacceptable to the Government of Myanmar. According to Article 3 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, it implies that diplomats are to promote friendly relations between the sending State and the receiving State and according to Article 41 of the Convention, diplomats are to respect the laws and regulations of the receiving State and not to interfere in the internal affairs of the State respectively.

The Ministry regrets that the French Republic instead of promoting amity and

mutual respect with Myanmar has issued a provocative statement which includes the above-mentioned unacceptable term that not only wantonly meddles in the internal affairs of Myanmar in the pretext of human rights and democracy but also flagrantly violates the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. This statement could have negative impacts on the existing bilateral relations. It is regrettable to see the failure of some countries to uphold the principle of the sovereign equality of states which is clearly prescribed in Article 2 of the UN Charter.

The legitimacy of the State Administration Council (SAC) is unquestionable as it was formed under the State Constitution (2008) and members of the State Administration Council from the central level to region/state levels are comprised of leaders of ethnic nationalities, leaders of some political parties and members of the Tatmadaw. This fact clearly demonstrates the fact that the SAC is not a military administration.

In order to have improved collaboration and constructive engagement, Myanmar once again calls on the international community to abide by the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter and internationally accepted Conventions on diplomatic relations and to treat Myanmar with the same courtesy due to any sovereign government.

Therefore, the Ministry protests and objects in the strongest terms to the irresponsible and reckless statements and remarks made by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs of the French Republic, the Embassy of France in Yangon, the United Nations Secretary General's Spokesperson and the US State Department's Spokesperson which the Ministry has already conveyed its strong objection through diplomatic channels.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw
Dated, 6 June 2022

Judgements given to 3 special civil appeal cases; 1 special criminal appeal case and 4 special civil appeal cases heard

THE special appeal court comprising Chief Justice of the Union U Htun Htun Oo and Judges U Myo Tint, U Tin Hone, U Thaug Naing and U Thein Ko Ko passed an interim order on one special civil appeal case and also passed judgements on three special civil appeal cases yesterday.

Moreover, they heard one special criminal appeal case and four special civil appeal cases following COVID-19 health rules. — MNA

5 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 6 June, total figure rises to 613,387

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **613,387** after **five** new cases were reported on 6 June 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **592,350** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll stands at **19,434** without more casualties. —MNA

UEC Chairman inspects verification of ground population census for accuracy in basic voter lists



Inspection on the ground population census is underway.

UNION Election Commission Chairman U Thein Soe inspected the work processes to verify the ground population census for the accuracy of the basic voter lists at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre in Yangon together with relevant regional officials yesterday.

The process was being carried out by 100 staff – 45 staff members of the UEC office and from the Union Territory and 55 staff of the Yangon Region election sub-commission offices at the Thuwunna Youth Training Centre to verify the ground population census of Thingangyun and Tamway townships for the accuracy of basic voter lists. —MNA

IPRD holds staff officer capacity-strengthening training in Nay Pyi Taw

THE opening ceremony of the Information and Public Relations Department Staff Officer Training Course (2/2022) was held at Information and Public Relations Department Training School in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

While addressing the ceremony, Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn said the IPRD is conducting capacity-strengthening training courses for staff officers with the aim of implementing the duties and responsibilities of the department with high capacity and improving individual capacity. The Department conducted 22 training courses in 2021 and 2022.

He said that not only the subjects taught in the officer capacity-strengthening course



The MoI Union Minister opens the IPRD officer capacity-strengthening training course 2/2022 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

but also the new and better innovations should be constantly studied and strive to improve the

individual capacity of the staff as well as to achieve the goals and objectives of the Ministry and the

Department.

Afterwards, the Union minister cordially greeted the train-

ees attending the Staff Officer Capacity-strengthening Training.

The opening ceremony was also attended by Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Tint, Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung, and departmental heads and officials.

The officer training course (2/2022) will be held for two weeks and 22 assistant directors from regions and states are attending the training.

Similarly, 30 employees working in the library business from various regions and states attended the e-Library Management System Software (2/2022) training course opened at the Pyinmana Community Centre. The training will be held from 6 to 10 June. — MNA

Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

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Myanmar earns US\$3.56 million at Myanmar-Bangladesh border trade camps in May



Export cargoes are seen loading onto the craft at the Myanmar-Bangladesh border.

THE two Myanmar-Bangladesh border trade camps — Sittway trade camp and Maungtau border trade camp — earned \$3.56 million from border trade in May 2022 and that amount was higher than in April, according to the Rakhine State Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

In May, Myanmar exported \$3,565,708 worth of products (7,310 metric tons) to the Teknaf jetty of Bangladesh and imported products worth \$9,540.

The country exported \$1.9 million worth of marine products and it was about 55 per cent of trade volume in May. Moreover,

it exported more than 1,500 tonnes of rohu from Yangon and Ayeyawady fish farms worth \$1.81 million.

The products of Rakhine State such as areca nut, coconut and other things including the products from other regions and states like palm fruit jam, ginger, onion and other crops are also exported to Bangladesh.

Although the import volume was low, the officials imported \$750 worth of 5,000 T-shirts to the Sittway trade camp and \$8790 worth of products including PVC pipes to the Maungtau border trade camp.

The trade camps made \$2.86 worth of trade in April and the export was more \$700,000 than the previous month. — TWA/ GNLM

15 car accidents occur on Yangon-Mandalay Expressway in May

THERE were 15 reported traffic accidents on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway, leaving four people dead and 37 others injured in May, according to the Nay Pyi Taw Expressway Traffic Police Force.

There were four deaths and 37 injuries in 15 accidents in May and the police opened cases against 15 people.

There were seven deaths and 13 injuries in nine traffic accidents in January, 12 deaths and 12 injuries in 20 traffic accidents in February, four deaths and 16 injuries in 15 traffic accidents in March, three deaths and 32 injuries in 13 traffic accidents in April and four deaths and 37 injuries in 15 traffic accidents in May, according to the data of police. — TWA/GNLM

Truck owners make less profit due to rising fuel prices and set fare prices



Trucks loaded with commodities are pictured at the Bayintnaung wholesale centre.

TRUCK owners are making less profit since the fare prices can't be changed while the fuel prices are rising, according to U Htaw Gyi, a truck owner from the Yangon-Pathein Freight Forwarding.

As a litre of diesel has risen to K2,500, one 200-mile way leaves around K90,000, he said. Last year, a litre of diesel was K660 in early February and K920 in April, however, the price rose to K2,500 in early June.

It takes nearly 20 gallons of diesel for a six-wheeler truck for about 200 miles from Yan-

gon-Pathein. At the current diesel price, it costs around K60,000/70,000 for fuel, K40,000 for the driver, K20,000 for the helper, and K10,000 for each coolie, and the owner has to pay for the two of them.

Ko Thet, a truck owner, said he would still have to work for profit during the rainy season, when the business is down, despite the low profit. Most truck owners now are choosing the option of picking up on the more expensive truckloads of goods and reducing general costs. — TWA/GNLM

Myanmar traditional snack prices higher than before due to surging raw materials prices



THE prices of snacks for breakfast become higher, the Yangon residents said.

"We can buy boiled garden pea only for K200. Starting June, the price of boiled garden pea was priced at K600 for 10 ticals. The vendors sell for K300 at least," said U Lay Win from Pazundaung Township.

Moreover, the people bought sticky rice and yellow sticky rice at K300 but now at K500.

"The 102-pound uncooked glutinous rice is K60,000 per bag and so we can sell sticky rice and yellow sticky rice at K300. Now, the price is K46,000 per bag of uncooked glutinous rice and we have to buy the sticky rice at K500 at least," said Daw Aye Win from Lanmadaw Township.

The grassroots have their breakfast depending on their daily income and as the price becomes higher, they have to consider their money for lunch, said Ma Thet from Hlinethaya Township.

"We buy sticky rice at K500 and boiled garden pea at K200 for breakfast for our three family members. Now, we do not get much sticky rice for K500. We buy boiled garden pea at K500 and we eat mixing with cooking oil and leftover rice. The price of the coffee mix was K100 in the past but now it is K150 per sachet. The prices of all items are higher than before and the income and

expense are unbalanced," she added.

"The price of jaggery and sugu is K2,000 per viss while over K2,000 per viss of sugar. The coconut is K700/800. We do not want to raise the price but we have to. We apologize to our customers and explain why we raise the prices," said Ko Myo Chit, Myanmar traditional snack seller from Dawbon Township.

"It is K500 for one Mohinkha without fritter in the market and K600 with the fritter. At the great teashop, the price of Mohinkha and Coconut Noodle is more than K1,000. The price of tea is K800 per cup. The expense for breakfast of 3-4 family members is nearly K10,000," said Ko Khin Win from Yankin Township.

The prices of snacks made of flour such as naans and samosa rose from K100 to K300 as the cooking oil and flour prices are high.

"We get four or three fritters and samosa at K500 now. We got three Shwekyi/Jelly at K500 but now only two at K500. We always hear the sellers saying the prices are higher," said Ko Htein Lin Aung from North Okkalapa Township.

Although the daily expenses of daily wage workers who get from K8,000 and K10,000 be higher and higher, the great teashops are crowded with people. —TWA/ GNLM



4th ASEAN Occupational Safety and Health Network Award Ceremony to be held in Myanmar



The MoL deputy minister meets the occupational safety and health officials yesterday.

A meeting with occupational safety and health officials from the workplaces/factories was held yesterday morning at the Skills Training School in Yangon to prevent injuries and occupational diseases in workplaces and to increase workers' safety and productivity.

At the meeting, Deputy Minister for Labour U Win Shein said that the occupational safety and health officials who attended the meeting should educate the workers to prevent injuries in the workplace, adding that it is necessary to coordinate between the employer and the employee to be able to attend necessary training courses and get the support materials under the existing labour laws.

The deputy minister also said that workers should be provided with appropriate personal protective clothing, equipment, and accessories to protect their work environment from noise, light, heat, cold, particles, fumes and hazardous materials. Arrangements must be made to put up posters, occupational safety and health instructions and directional signs in line with the regulations.

In case of emergency, arrangements should be made as required and the Chief Inspectors and the inspectors should conduct systematic inspections when inspecting workplaces and cooperates as necessary, he continued.

At the 4th ASEAN Occupational Safety and Health

Network Award Ceremony to be held in Myanmar in September, the ceremony will award entrepreneurs from factories/workplaces which will be awarded the Outstanding Achievement Award and Good Practice Award.

Afterwards, the Director of the Workshop and Labour Law Inspection Department explained the activities that could endanger workplaces and workplace injuries caused by hazardous workplaces. Workshops discussed the experience of the competition at the ASEAN Workplace Safety and Health Network Award, which was awarded in previous years, and the participants asked questions and the Deputy Minister coordinated the necessary matters. — MNA

MoC oversees 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 company imported two oxygen storage tanks by two vehicles via the Muse 105th-mile trade zone 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

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, charcoal bags, vehicles seized in various townships



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

On 5 June, the Combined Inspection Team led by Tatmadaw and Forest Department conducted an inspection under the management of the Rakhine Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force. They confiscated K312,172 worth of 4.4596 tonnes of illegal timbers in Taungup Township. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

Similarly, on 6 June, under the supervision of the Anti-Trafficking Task Force, an inspection team led by the Forest Department captured illegal charcoal

bags worth K243,216 in Monywa Township, and the action was taken under the Forest Law.

Moreover, on the same day, an unregistered Honda Fit at an estimated value of K1,500,000 was seized in Kanbalu Township, and the action was taken under the Export/Import Law. An unregistered Hijet car (approximately K1,500,000) was seized in Sagaing Township, under the supervision of the Anti-Trafficking Task Force on 6 June, and the action was taken under the Export/Import Law.

Therefore, seven arrests (approximately K3,555,388) were made on 5 and 6 June, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

K1 billion worth of stimulant tablets seized in Thingangyun township



K1 billion worth of stimulant tablets were captured in Thingangyun township of Yangon Region, according to Myanmar Police Force stated.

On 2 June, a combined inspection team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force searched a house of Tin Win in Thingangyun Township, according to information. Police seized one million stimulant tablets at 8:00 am. According to the examination, at noon on the same day, trafficker Ma Nam Kham Aung (aka) Ma Aye Khin was arrested at her home in Thingangyun Township.

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

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LOCAL BUSINESS

Myanmar maritime trade up by \$959 mln nearly past two months

THE value of Myanmar's maritime trade between 1 April and 27 May in the current financial year 2022-2023 surged to US\$3.7 billion, reflecting a significant increase of \$959 million, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Sea trade rose from \$2.755 billion during the year-ago period, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

While maritime exports were valued at \$1.5 billion, imports were registered at \$2.2 billion. Both exports and imports have risen as against the year-ago period.

Myanmar's sea trade generated \$19.8 billion out of an overall trade value of \$29.5 billion in the previous FY2020-2021, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated.

Terminals in Yangon Port received over 250 cargo ships



One of the container vessels at Yangon Port.

in the past five months (January-May), according to Myanmar Port Authority.

The turnaround time at the Port was designated as approx-

imately three days, under the guidance of the Myanmar Port Authority and the cooperation of the ocean liners, exporters and importers. Therefore, the arrival

of the ships has increased.

Myanmar Port Authorities and Yangon inner terminals are providing services to ensure the fast and reliable cargo handling

and withdrawal of the containers for trade flow to return to normalcy.

Earlier, the larger ships have draft problems preventing their sailing on the Yangon River. The draft extension is up to 10 meters with the new navigation channel accessing to inner Yangon River.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, fishery products, minerals, livestock, forest products, finished industrial goods, and other products, while it imports capital goods, consumer goods, and raw industrial materials.

The country currently has nine ports involved in sea trade. Yangon Port is the main gateway for Myanmar's maritime trade and includes the Yangon inner terminals and the outer Thilawa Port. — KK/GNLM

Yangon Stock Exchange sees three-month high in trading value in May

THE equity market records a three-month high in trading value in May, Yangon Stock Exchange's monthly price data indicated.

Last month, the average stock trading value was K20 to K30 million. The stock market trading in May was alive compared to that of 2021, said a market observer.

In May, K314 million worth 55,024 shares by seven listed companies were traded on the YSX.

Trading of 61,435 shares valued at K282 million was recorded on the exchange in January 2022 and the trading volume rose to 80,291 shares in February, with an estimated value of K414.9 million. A total of 52,408 shares with an estimated value of K233.634 million were traded on the exchange in March. The trading value slightly rose to K276 million with 53,059 shares traded on the exchange in April, according to the monthly report of the YSX.

At present, shares of seven listed companies — First

Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB), First Private Bank (FPB), TMH Telecom Public Co. Ltd (TMH), the Ever Flow River Group Public Co., Ltd (EFR) and Amata Holding Public Co., Ltd. (AMATA) were traded in the equity market. The share prices per unit were closed at K7,600 for FMI, K2,650 for MTSH, K8,500 for MCB, K17,500 for FPB, and K2,600 for TMH, K2,550 for EFR and K5,000 for AMATA respectively in May.

Regardless of the collapse of the stock markets worldwide, the local equities market has been able to continue operating without stopping trading.

Additionally, YSX launched a pre-listing board (PLB) on 28 September 2020 in order to provide unlisted public companies with fund-raising opportunities and build a bridge toward listing on YSX.

Next, the Securities and Exchange Commission of Myanmar (SECM) has allowed foreigners to invest in the local

equity market since 20 March 2020.

Only K4.63 billion valued in 887,969 shares by seven listed companies were traded on the exchange in 2021, showing a significant drop of 63 per cent as against 2020, according to the annual report released by the exchange.

In 2020, K12.6 billion worth of 1.87 million shares by six listed companies were traded on YSX, whereas over 2.4 million shares from five listed companies, valued at K13.39 billion, were traded on the exchange in 2019.

The YSX was launched four years ago to improve the private business sector. It disseminates rules and regulations regarding the stock exchange and knowledge of share trading through stock investment webinars and training courses.

Those enthusiastic can also join the YSX Telegram channel to get easy access to daily stock market updates, event info, market research and investor learning tips. — KK/GNLM

Gold price stability maintains at K2,050,000 per tical

THERE is no price fluctuation in the domestic gold market between 16 May and 6 June, with K2,050,000 per tical (0.578 ounce, or 0.016 kilogramme) on 6 June 2022, according to the Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA).

Global gold price and exchange rate against the US dollar are contributing factors to the price volatility. At present, gold is stable at US\$1,850 per ounce. Similarly, the US dollar value remains unchanged at K2,000 in the unofficial forex market.

In a bid to end the black market and stabilize the volatile prices, the transaction of gold bars has to be carried out in the YGEA office. Additionally, YGEA urged the members and gold traders to make gold transactions with immediate payment. Cross-border trade is not allowed without reporting to the association, according to its statement released on 17 May.

The statement includes seeking a trade licence for gold shops, a licence for gold bar transactions and taking actions against those unauthorized dealers involved in online trade platforms.

After that, gold shops en-

gaged in gold bar transactions must make an inventory list of gold bar and gold trading reports. Those individuals and gold shops will face legal actions under the existing law if they fail to follow that statement, according to the YGEA.

Moreover, YGEA also decided on 4 May to import raw gold from foreign countries in the coming rainy season not to fall short of raw metal supply.

In a bid to stabilize the gold market, gold transactions had better made according to the reference rate of the Central Bank of Myanmar (K1,850), according to the CBM's statement released on 3 April.

Nonetheless, it has not come into effect yet, said U Myo Myint, chair of the YGEA. — NN/GNLM



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OPINION

Strive for surging paddy plus fish farming works

MONSOON benefits Myanmar for about five months per year. The areas in lower Myanmar gain a larger volume of rainfall than those in upper Myanmar. Many rainfalls create chances for local farmers to cultivate paddy and other rain-fed crops starting from late May when the monsoon has already entered Myanmar.

In monsoon, vast paddy fields are filled with rainwater. It can be said that the monsoon gives the greatest opportunities to Myanmar farmers. It is because they can utilize such a volume of rainwater for their interests.

Farmers in India were engaged in operating the fishing works in the paddy fields some 1,500 years ago. They released fingerlings into the paddy fields as an extra job for earning surplus incomes for their families. Farmers can capture fish from the paddy farms while nurturing the paddy plants. Before harvesting, they can capture some 50 visses of fish in various species.

All the people can consume rice and fish as main dishes for their daily meals. It is enough for all. As such, strenuous efforts of local farmers will much contribute to food sufficiency for the nation while saving costs as well as earning increased income for families.

Moreover, fishing camps in regions and states are ready to provide fingerlings and hatchlings of golden sturgeon, tilapia, dace and catfish to the farmers wishing to do the paddy plus fish farming works. Moreover, they can take techniques and expertise for the farming from the branches of the Department of Fisheries for their smooth working process.

Paddy grown on the farms, as usual, is a primary staple food for most of the people residing in Myanmar. So also, freshwater fish bred in the paddy fields is nutritious and the most suitable for all consumers. All the people can consume rice and fish as main dishes for their daily meals. It is enough for all. As such, strenuous efforts of local farmers will much contribute to food sufficiency for the nation while saving costs as well as earning increased income for families.

To treat infections, visible light activates molecular machineries: Study

CHEMISTS have shown that light-activated molecular machines can drill holes through gram-negative and gram-positive bacteria membranes, killing them in just two minutes. Their study suggests a new way to fight antibiotic-resistant bacteria, which have no natural resistance against mechanical invaders.

The study was published in the journal, "Science Advances, 2022"

The latest iteration of nanoscale drills developed at Rice University is activated by visible light rather than ultraviolet (UV), as in earlier versions. They have also been proven effective in killing bacteria through tests for real infections.

Six variants of the molecular machine

Six variants of the molecular machine were successfully

tested by Rice chemist James Tour and his team. They all pierced the membranes of gram-negative and gram-positive bacteria within two minutes. Resistance is futile for bacteria that have no natural resistance against mechanical invaders. That means they are unlikely to develop resistance, possibly offering a strategy to defeat bacteria that have become immune to common antibiotic treatments over time.

"I tell students that when they're my age, antibiotic-resistant bacteria will make COVID feel like walking in the park," Tour said. "Antibiotics can't keep 10 million people a year from dying of bacterial infections. But it really stops them."

Because prolonged exposure to UV can harm humans, the Rice lab has been refining its molecules for years. The new version draws its energy from

bluish light at 405 nanometres, which rotates the rotors of the molecules at 2 to 3 million times per second.

Other researchers have suggested that light at that wavelength has its own mild antibacterial properties, but the addition of molecular machines adds to this, says Tour, suggesting bacterial infections such as those experienced of burn victims and people with gangrene will be early targets.

Nobel Prize-winning work

The machines are based on the Nobel Prize-winning work of Bernard Feringa, who developed the first molecule with a rotor in 1999 and got the rotor to rotate reliably in one direction. Tour and his team introduced their advanced drills in a 2017 Nature paper.

Rice lab's initial tests of the new molecules in burn wound

infection models confirmed their ability to quickly kill bacteria, including methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, a common cause of skin and soft tissue infections. tissue that caused more than 100,000 deaths in 2019.

The team achieved visible light activation by adding a nitrogen group. "The molecules are further modified by different amines either in the stator (stationary) or in the rotor part of the molecule to promote the relationship between the protonated amines of the machines and the negatively charged bacterial membrane," said Liu, now a scientist at Arcus Biosciences in California.

The researchers also discovered that the machines effectively destroyed biofilms and persistent cells, which become dormant to avoid antibacterial drugs.

"Even though an antibiotic kills most of a colony, there are usually a few persistent cells that for some reason don't die," Tour said. "But that doesn't matter in drills."

Antibacterial drugs

Like previous versions, the new machines also promise to activate antibacterial drugs deemed ineffective. "Drilling through the membranes of microorganisms allows otherwise ineffective drugs to enter the cells and overcome intrinsic or acquired resistance of the bug to antibiotics," said Santos, who is in his third year postdoctoral global fellowship that brought him to Rice for two years and continues. at the Health Research Institute of the Balearic Islands in Palma, Spain.

The lab is working toward better targeting of bacteria to reduce damage to mammalian



The study suggests a new way to fight antibiotic-resistant bacteria, which have no natural resistance against mechanical invaders. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ CHANDAN KHANNA/AFP

cells by linking bacteria-specific peptide tags to drills to direct them towards pathogens. and

interested. "But even without that, the peptide can be applied to a site of bacterial concentra-

tion, such as to a burn wound area," Santos said.

Source : ANI

Policy mix supports Chinese COVID-battered small businesses



Staff members work at a workshop in an industry park in Qingpu District of Shanghai, east China, 17 May 2022. PHOTO: XINHUA/ZHAO YIHE

CHINA'S cabinet has rolled out a policy package this week, with a prominent part contributing to bolstering micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs).

Of the total 33 measures issued by State Council on Tuesday,

14 cover contents to support the COVID-stricken small businesses.

Calling the measures targeted, extensive and coordinated, Vice Minister of Industry and Information Technology Xu Xiaolan said they have created synergy with previous policies, aiming to

tackle small businesses' crying needs amid the cash crunch, debt pressures and sluggish market demands.

EXTEND LIFELINE

Experts believe that the current restraining forces for MSMEs' recovery and growth

include rising costs due to hiking international food, energy and raw material prices, shrinking demands and supply shocks resulting from disruptions in industrial and supply chains at home and abroad.

"The period between May to September is supposed to be our factory's peak season for orders. We should have received many orders by April, but this year we haven't seen any," said Liu Chunming, financial chief of a Yangzhou-based shoe-making company.

The company received a large amount of handcraft-shoe orders from Southeast Asia and India last year and borrowed 26 million yuan (3.88 million US dollars) from the bank. It is under heavy stress to repay the loans as payment collection dragged due to the pandemic.

"Thanks to the tax and fee deferrals for micro, small and medium-sized manufacturing firms, not only were our 900,000-yuan tax and fee payments from the fourth quarter last year extended for another six months, this year's tax and fee payments from the first and second quarter can continue

to enjoy the deferrals," Liu said.

On top of that, China will also expand the policy of deferring premium payments of social security programmes and support banks principal and interest repayments on loans made to MSMEs, according to the State Council's Tuesday circular.

"The strengths, scope and depth of support for MSMEs have been increasing constantly," said Shan Lipo, an official with the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology.

EASE BURDENS

The Yangzhou Xiexin Smart Wind Power Generation Co., Ltd. has seen more costs added to the construction of its power stations this year as the construction got put off by two months due to the COVID-19.

However, the company just received 13 million yuan of outstanding and newly added value-added tax credit refunds, which its financial chief Li Hui called a "timely rain."

"We will use it to repay bank loans. We will be able to reduce 559,000 yuan of financing costs in a year if calculated with the current

lending rate," Li said.

The State Council has decided to extend the policy of refunding outstanding and newly added value-added tax credits to more industries, which is expected to increase tax refunds by 140-plus billion yuan, according to its circular.

Measures such as lowering utility and Internet service bills and facilitating phased rent exemption for market entities are also included in the circular to relieve firms' financial burdens.

"Thanks to this year's policy to exempt rent for businesses that are tenants of state-owned enterprises, we will be waived for 3 million yuan on rent. We will use it on equipment purchase and research and development," said Zhou Da, Vice President of Ecosystem of BioMap, a startup biotech company. "For science-driven MSMEs at the cutting edge of industry development, technological innovation is of utmost importance," Zhou said. He admitted that the raft of policies aiming at cutting costs has injected more vitality into firms' innovation and development.

Source : Xinhua

MYANMAR Daily Weather Report

(ISSUED at 7:00 pm Monday 6 June 2022)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 7 June 2022: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway Regions, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw and northern Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayah States, fairly widespread in upper Sagaing, Bago Regions and (southern and eastern) Shan State and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in upper Sagaing Region and Kachin, Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squall with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach (30-35) mph. Wave height will be about (7-10) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of rain in upper Sagaing Region and Kachin, Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7 June 2022: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7 June 2022: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7 June 2022: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

SCI/ENVIRON WORLD

Shenzhou-14 astronauts enter Tianzhou-4 cargo craft

THE Shenzhou-14 crew has entered the Tianzhou-4 cargo craft after finishing the environmental tests, according to the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) on Monday.

After successfully stationing in China's space station core module Tianhe, the Shenzhou-14 crew opened the hatch of the Tianzhou-4 cargo craft and

entered it at 12:19 pm (Beijing Time), the CMSA said.

The crew will also enter the Tianzhou-3 cargo craft, and carry out cargo transfer and other related work as planned.

The Shenzhou-14 spaceship was launched from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in north-west China on Sunday.

The crew entered the core

module Tianhe after Shenzhou-14 successfully completed a fast automated rendezvous and docking with the combination of the core module, the Tianzhou-3 cargo craft and the Tianzhou-4 cargo craft.

They will stay in orbit for six months and complete the assembly and construction of the space station. —Xinhua



Screen image captured at Beijing Aerospace Control Centre on 5 June 2022 shows three Chinese astronauts, Chen Dong (C), Liu Yang (R) and Cai Xuzhe, saluting after entering the space station core module Tianhe. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Amino acids found in asteroid samples collected by Hayabusa2 probe

MORE than 20 types of amino acids have been detected in samples Japan's Hayabusa2 space probe brought to Earth from an asteroid in late 2020, an official said Monday.

The acids discovered are very important substances for living things and could hold clues to understanding the origins of life, the education ministry official said.

In December 2020, a capsule that had been carried on a six-year mission by Hayabusa2 delivered more than 5.4 grammes of surface material to Earth from the Ryugu asteroid, located over 300 million kilometres away.

The probe of Ryugu was aimed at unravelling the mysteries of the origin of the solar system and life. Previous analysis of the samples had suggested the presence of water and organic matter.

The full-fledged investigation of the sample was launched in 2021 by the Japan Aerospace Exploration



File photo shows samples brought to Earth by the Hayabusa2 space probe from the Ryugu asteroid. **PHOTO: PHOTO COURTESY OF JAXA)(KYODO)**

Agency and research institutions nationwide including the University of Tokyo and Hiroshima University.

Amino acids are substances that make proteins and are indispensable for life.

Although it is not known how amino acids arrived on ancient Earth, one theory says they were brought by meteorites, with amino acids being detected in a meteorite found on Earth. But there is also a possibility that they were attached on the ground. —Kyodo

Climate talks test global resolve on warming

NEGOTIATORS from almost 200 countries will meet in Bonn Monday for climate talks tasked with reigniting momentum on tackling global warming, as Russia's invasion of Ukraine overshadows the threat from rising emissions.

The conference will set the stage for a fresh round of major United Nations talks later this year in Egypt.

It will also be a chance to test the resolve of nations facing a catalogue of crises, including escalating climate impacts, geopolitical tensions, bloodshed in Ukraine and the threat of a devastating global food crisis.

"Climate change is not an agenda we can afford to push back on our global schedule," said outgoing UN climate change chief Patricia Espinosa ahead of the meeting.

She said it is imperative

that nations arrive at the UN COP27 meeting in Sharm el-Sheikh in November prepared to show they are taking "bold, concrete steps — backed by specific plans — to deliver the urgent and transformational climate ambition we simply must see before it's too late".

Governments have already accepted that climate change is a grave threat to humanity and the planet, and have advocated immediate action to cut fossil fuel emissions and prepare for the accelerating impacts of warming.

The summary to this year's landmark climate report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change concluded that any further delay in action "will miss a brief and rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a liveable and sustainable future for all". —AFP

Dutch port's rooftop walk shows post-climate future

AS one of the world's most densely populated countries grapples with climate change, the Dutch are taking to their rooftops.

An organization in the port city of Rotterdam has built a skywalk linking the roofs of the downtown shopping area to show what the future might look like.

From a village to food cultivation and rainwater storage areas, the "Rooftop Days" association is showing how to unlock the unused space of Europe's biggest port.

"We want people to experience how great it is to be on a rooftop and what space we have there above the city," Rooftop Days director Leon van Geest told AFP.

"We are only using three per cent of the full potential of the flat rooftops that we have

here in our city."

The bright orange skywalk runs for some 600 metres (1,969 feet), with a heart-stopping "airbridge" section linking the city's World Trade Centre to a department store, at 29.5 metres above street level.

The walk, which is open until 24 June, also features wind turbines, solar panels, art galleries and a drone landing pad.

If the city authorities give approval for a full-scale rooftop village in future, it is expected to include crops and tiny houses built of sustainable materials.

'Unique opportunity'

With around a third of its land lying below a sea level that creeps higher each year, the Netherlands has become a world leader in adapting to climate change.

The urgency is even greater for the Dutch given that the nation's 17 million inhabitants are squeezed into Europe's most densely populated country after tiny Monaco, the Vatican City, Malta and San Marino.

Known for its architectural daring in the decades after it was flattened during World War II, Rotterdam itself is something of a pioneer for the Netherlands, which only uses some 1.8 per cent of its roof space.

Transforming the city could take decades but van Geest says he is "convinced that this will become a reality".

As the Dutch population becomes increasingly urban, "space is becoming a rare commodity in the city, so we will have to exploit the roof", he added. —AFP

Shanghai residents chafe under fresh Covid lockdowns

RESIDENTS stuck inside a compound nearly a week after Shanghai's much vaunted reopening following a virus outbreak shouted at hazmat-clad officials on Monday, as fears grew that some city neighbourhoods were being locked down again.

Authorities in the financial hub eased many harsh restrictions last Wednesday, after confining most of the city's 25 million inhabitants to their homes since late March, as China battled its worst Covid outbreak in two years.

But hundreds of thousands have not yet been allowed out of their homes, while others have immediately been placed back under local lockdowns after a

brief liberation that triggered shopping sprees and booze-fuelled street parties.

In downtown Xuhui district on Monday, an AFP reporter witnessed about a dozen people in one fenced-off housing compound shouting angrily at hazmat-clad officials.

From behind rows of fences, crowds chanted "Serve the people!" at officials standing on the other side.

One resident, who gave the surname Li, said tempers had flared after the community was suddenly put back into lockdown on Saturday.

"I'm very indignant," he told AFP. "It's been two months and we can't cope anymore. We're all

negative (on Covid tests), why lock us in a cage?"

A local media outlet said in a swiftly deleted social media post that residents of the compound were angry at the threat of being sent to state-run quarantine facilities despite being designated "low-risk".

Li said virus-negative people were being transferred to quarantine hotels every day, sometimes in the middle of the night.

"It's had a huge impact on everyone's lives," he said. "Our mood is very bleak."

Some restrictions lifted

Shanghai has creaked back to life in recent days, as commuters have begun to return to



A health worker prepares to take swab samples in front of a residential area under a Covid-19 lockdown in the Huangpu district of Shanghai on 4 June 2022. PHOTO: AFP

their offices and residents have gathered in parks and along the city's historic waterfront.

But authorities have said over half a million people remain under movement curbs in the city.

Under China's stringent zero-Covid approach, all positive cases are isolated and close contacts — often including the entire building or community where they live — are made to quarantine.— AFP

G20 countries to discuss global funding scheme to face future pandemic

HEALTH leaders from Group of Twenty (G20) countries will talk about mobilizing financial resources for future pandemic prevention, preparedness and response as an effort to build a strong and resilient global health system from the threat of future health disasters.

The discussion will be made during the two-day second Health Working Group (HWG) meeting on 6-7 June in Lombok, Indonesia's West

Nusa Tenggara province.

"We will focus on the aspects coordination, ability and rapid response to the changing situation of diseases, as well as mitigation plan to face other possible pandemics in the future," spokesperson of Indonesia's Health Ministry Siti Nadia Tarmizi said on Monday in a press statement.

Tarmizi said that currently there had been several financing frameworks initiated by the

World Bank and WHO, namely joint finance and health taskforce, as well as the Financial Intermediary Fund.

"We hope that the HWG meeting can conclude a global collective action needed to increase investment and support from various parties to strengthen the capacity of developing countries to prevent, prepare, and respond to the next possible pandemic," she said.— Xinhua

Aussie state makes record investment into healthcare sector

ANNOUNCING its 2022-23 budget, the government of the Australian state of New South Wales (NSW) committed on Monday a record 4.5 billion Australian dollars (about 3.24 billion US dollars) investment for its healthcare system.

The investment, the largest of its kind ever in the state, is for hiring over 10,000 new healthcare workers. It would be spread out over four years and in a bid to take pressure off existing staff, which have been stretched to their limits over the course of the COVID-19

pandemic.

"Everyone in NSW is indebted to our health workers for their selfless efforts throughout the pandemic, remembering for a long time there was no vaccine and they risked their lives each day to care for patients," said NSW Premier Dominic Perrottet on Monday.

"This record investment will help us care for health staff across the state, providing the respite and back-up they need. It will also boost staff numbers in hospitals to deliver quality health care closer to home, en-

suring better health outcomes and a brighter future for NSW families."

The additional staff would include nurses and midwives, doctors, paramedics, pathologists and scientific staff, pharmacists, and will be recruited into 110 healthcare infrastructure projects in the pipeline.

An additional 1.76 billion Australian dollars (about 1.27 billion US dollars) were committed to hiring over 2,000 staff for NSWs ambulance system, which has been under unprecedented pressure.— Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

India records 4,518 new COVID-19 cases, 9 more deaths

INDIA'S COVID-19 tally rose to 43,181,335 on Monday with 4,518 new cases registered during the past 24 hours across the country, showed the federal health ministry's latest data. Besides, nine deaths from the pandemic registered across the country since Sunday morning took the total death toll to 524,701.

There are still 25,782 active COVID-19 cases in the country, an increase of 1,730 during the past 24 hours. So far, 42,630,852 people have been cured and discharged from hospitals, including 2,779 discharged during the past 24 hours.— Xinhua

S Korea reports 5,022 new COVID-19 cases

SOUTH Korea reported 5,022 new COVID-19 cases as of midnight Sunday compared to 24 hours ago, raising the total number of infections to 18,168,708, the health authorities said Monday.

The daily caseload was down from 9,835 in the previous day, and lower than 6,135 tallied a week earlier, according to the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA). For the past week, the daily average number of confirmed cases was 11,759. Among the new cases, 17 were imported, lifting the total to 33,029. The number of infected people who were in a serious condition stood at 129, down seven from the previous day. A total of 21 more deaths were confirmed, leaving the death toll at 24,279. The total fatality rate was 0.13 per cent.— Xinhua

Pakistan reports 59 new COVID-19 cases

PAKISTAN reported 59 new COVID-19 cases on Sunday, bringing the total tally to 1,530,764, the country's ministry of health said on Monday.

A total of 30,379 people died from COVID-19 in Pakistan, with no more death on Sunday, according to the ministry's statistics. On Sunday, 14,562 tests for COVID-19 were conducted in Pakistan while the positivity rate stood at 0.41 per cent. Currently, there are 61 active cases who are in critical condition in the country.— Xinhua

ECON: WORLD

Monetary tightening not “suitable” at all: BOJ chief Kuroda



Bank of Japan Governor Haruhiko Kuroda delivers a speech in Tokyo on 6 June 2022. **PHOTO: KYODO**

MONETARY tightening is not a “suitable” measure at all for the Bank of Japan as the domestic economy is still in the midst of a recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic while higher commodity prices are adding downward pressure, Governor Haruhiko Kuroda said Monday.

Even though core consumer inflation jumped 2.1 per cent in April from a year earlier, it does not mean the BOJ’s 2 per cent inflation target has been achieved, Kuroda said, stressing that the central bank will not waver in its aggressive monetary easing to support the economy and ensure more robust wage growth.

His remarks, made at an event organized by Kyodo News, reinforced the view that the BOJ will remain an outlier among major central banks that are transitioning to tighter monetary policy to rein in soaring inflation.

The yen has been falling as financial markets price in the prospect of such policy divergence, but Kuroda said yen weakness is “positive” as long as it is not rapid. It will also benefit pandemic-hit service providers in regional areas as Japan is set to reopen its doors to foreign tourists from Friday, he added.

“Unlike other central banks, the bank has not faced the trade-off between economic stability and price stability,” Kuroda said in his speech. “For this reason, it is certainly possible for the bank to continue stimulating aggregate demand from the financial side.” Under its yield curve control programme, the BOJ sets short-term interest rates at minus 0.1 per cent while guiding 10-year Japanese government bond yields to around zero per cent. To defend its cap on the benchmark yield, the central bank announced it would buy unlimited amounts of 10-year government bonds at a fixed rate of 0.25 per cent every business day.

“Japan’s economy is still on its way to recovery from the pandemic and has been under downward pressure from the income side due to rising commodity prices. In this situation, monetary tightening is not at all a suitable measure,” the BOJ chief added. — Kyodo

Markets mixed as US jobs data give Fed room to hike rates

EQUITY markets were mixed Monday following losses on Wall Street as a forecast-topping US jobs report gave the Federal Reserve room to continue hiking interest rates, while there was some cheer in China as leaders eased Covid curbs.

US traders took flight after the closely watched non-farm payroll figures Friday, which showed a slowdown in hiring but still with more new posts created than expected.

That came as more officials suggested the Federal Reserve could continue lifting borrowing costs sharply as they try to rein in inflation.

However, with prices being driven higher by factors ranging from the Ukraine war to China’s lockdown-induced slowdown, there are fears the bank’s measures could deal a blow to the world’s biggest economy.

The jump in inflation has forced finance chiefs around the world to tighten monetary policy, with the European Central Bank indicating it will raise rates in July for the first time in more than a decade.

“The critical issue for markets is whether inflation can be brought under control by central banks without generating a recession,” Shane Oliver, head of investment strategy and chief economist at AMP Capital, said in a note.

“Shares are likely to see

continued short-term volatility as central banks continue to tighten to combat high inflation, the war in Ukraine continues and fears of recession remain.”

All three main indexes on Wall Street ended deep in the red, with tech firms taking most of the pain, though Asia fared a little better Monday.

Hong Kong, Tokyo, Shanghai and Taipei all rose, but there were losses in Sydney, Mumbai, Singapore, Manila, Bangkok and Jakarta.

London climbed more than one per cent with traders keeping an eye on Westminster as Prime Minister Boris Johnson faces a confidence vote later in the day.

Paris and Frankfurt also rose. Diana Mousina, of AMP Capital, said: “Positive news

around Chinese economic activity and cheaper equity valuations could offer value from a long-term investment perspective, but volatility will remain high in the short-term.”

Traders took some heart from a wind-down of Covid containment measures that have crippled the world’s number two economy for months.

With infections trending down in major cities including Shanghai and Beijing, authorities have allowed some sense of normality to return, raising hopes for a pick-up in consumer activity.

“The expectations for economic recovery is rising as Beijing and Shanghai try (their) best to resume work and production,” Meng Shen, of investment bank Chanson & Co, said. — AFP



A woman walks past an electronic share price board showing the closing numbers on the Tokyo Stock Exchange in Tokyo on 30 May 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

Saudi eyes tripling of foreign tourists in 2022

SAUDI Arabia aims to triple foreign tourism this year as pandemic restrictions ease, hajj pilgrims return and the first elements of the crown prince’s signature projects open, its tourism minister told AFP Sunday.

The famously conservative and closed-off kingdom inaugurated tourist visas in September 2019, just months before the coronavirus pandemic decimated the industry globally.

An uptick in domestic travel in 2020 and 2021 — authorities tallied a record 64 million “domestic visits” last year — helped save the nascent Saudi tourism sector from collapse, and now

authorities want to seize more of the international market, Ahmed Al Khateeb said in an interview.

“Now we are pushing and moving to attract more... international visitors,” he said, specifying the goal for this year was 12 million, up from 4 million in 2021.

“We are back and we are very optimistic. Countries started to open their borders, restrictions started to ease down and people started to travel,” he said.

Saudi Arabia has raised eyebrows with its goal of attracting 100 million visitors by 2030, an element of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman’s Vision

2030 reform agenda intended to diversify the oil-dependent economy and open up to the world.

While the kingdom has in recent years relaxed rules barring cinemas, gender-mixed concerts and sporting extravaganzas, other regulations including an alcohol ban remain in place, potentially denting its appeal.

Khateeb specified Sunday that of the 100 million targeted visitors for 2030, 30 million are meant to come from abroad while the rest would be people travelling within Saudi Arabia. — AFP

Mongolia to hold motor sports festival for tourism

MONGOLIA is planning to hold an international motor-sports festival entitled the “Steppe wind” on 11 June here to promote the development of special interest tourism, the tourism department of the capital city said Monday.

The annual festival was cancelled in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The sixth edition is expected to take place under the motto “Healthy People - Alcohol-Free Mongolia”.

The festival is of great importance for the development of special interest tourism, promoting Mongolia internationally and attracting more tourists, the tourism department said in a statement. Hundreds of motorcyclists from all 21 provinces of Mongolia and other countries including Russia, India and Japan are expected to participate in the festival. — Xinhua

Deflation to war: how the ECB responded and what is next



The headquarter of the European Central Bank (ECB) is pictured with a European flag in Frankfurt am Main, western Germany, on 8 May 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE global surge in inflation has brought to an end a long period of low interest rates and forced central banks around the world to try to bring prices under control by raising

borrowing costs.

Inflation in the eurozone soared to an all-time peak of 8.1 per cent in May, precipitating a response from the European Central Bank.

But as ECB policy-makers prepare to draw a line under debt-purchasing measures worth a total of around five trillion euros (\$5.4 trillion) deployed since 2014, here is a look at what they achieved and what could come next.

What did the stimulus do?

Back in 2014, with deflation looming, the ECB launched its bond-buying stimulus programme to try to stoke prices and economic growth.

The tool works by buying up bonds on the market, which pushes down or holds down interest rates for states, corporate investors and consumers alike.

With interest rates already at historic lows, the programme has been the ECB's way of trying to provide stimulus for the economy.

The bank launched a new plan in 2020 to keep borrowing costs under control and cradle the economy through the coronavirus pandemic.

Between them, both programmes have hoovered up trillions of euros in assets.

Putting the pandemic aside, growth rates improved, as did employment figures across the eurozone, but inflation struggled to climb towards the ECB's target of two per cent. —AFP

Chinese companies see sci-tech investment up over decade: official

CHINESE enterprises' investment in science and technology has continued to increase over the past decade, an official said Monday.

Investment in science and technology by enterprises accounted for more than 76 per cent of the country's total research and development investment, said Minister of Science and Technology Wang Zhigang at a press conference.

The number of China's high-tech companies rose from 49,000 more than a decade ago to 330,000 in 2021, whose research and

development investment accounted for 70 per cent of the total such investment of Chinese companies, Wang said.

In 2012, the country's high-tech companies paid 800 billion yuan (about 120 billion US dollars) in taxes, and this number climbed to 2.3 trillion yuan in 2021, Wang said.

He added that the number of high-tech companies has exceeded 90 per cent among all listed on the Shanghai Stock Exchange's sci-tech innovation board and the Beijing Stock Exchange. —Xinhua

New car sales in Russia down 83.5% in May: industry

NEW car sales in Russia sank by 83.5 per cent year-on-year in May, industry data showed on Monday, as the effects of unprecedented Western sanctions hit the country's economy and consumers.

Only 24,268 cars and light commercial vehicles were sold in Russia in May, said the Association of European Businesses in Moscow.

The collapse in sales in May came after a 78.5 per cent drop in April.

Sales of the country's most popular and affordable brand, Lada, whose AvtoVAZ manufacturer was majority-owned by the Nissan-Renault group, fell 84 per cent to 6,000 units year-on-year. The West slapped Russia with debilitating sanctions after the start of Moscow's military campaign in Ukraine in February.

In May, Renault handed over its local assets to the Russian government, marking the first major

nationalization since the onset of sanctions. Renault controlled 68 per cent of AvtoVAZ but was under pressure to pull out of the country. Numerous carmakers have stopped sales of their cars or parts to Russia including Audi, Honda, Jaguar and Porsche. Makes that have halted Russian production include BMW, Ford, Hyundai, Mercedes, Volkswagen and Volvo. Last week the statistics service said the country's industrial output

shrank for the first time since the start of the military campaign, falling by 1.6 per cent in April compared to the same period last year.

Car production was hit particularly hard, falling by 85.4 per cent year-on-year.

Faced with a shortage of imported parts in factories, authorities eased safety and emission standards for locally produced cars in May — including dropping the requirement for airbags. —AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CUI HUA VOY.NO. (CH2204)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CUI HUA VOY. NO. (CH2204)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **8-6-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMIT-1** 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
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S ELDER TRIUMPHANT SHIPPING LINES PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CHATTANOOGA VOY.NO. (S406)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CHATTANOOGA VOY.NO. (S406)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-6-2022** 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 SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR SOLO VOY.NO. (963N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR SOLO VOY.NO. (963N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-6-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (0265-720N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (0265-720N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-6-2022** 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 EVERGREEN MARINE (S'PORE) PTE., LTD.

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

New Australia PM, Indonesia president ride bikes as diplomatic wheels turn



This handout photo taken and released by the Presidential Palace on 6 June 2022 shows Indonesia's President Joko Widodo (R) and Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese (L) riding bamboo bicycles at the Presidential Palace in Bogor, West Java. **PHOTO: LAILY RACHEV / PRESIDENTIAL PALACE / AFP**

AUSTRALIA'S new prime minister and Indonesia's president rode bamboo bicycles together on Monday as they held talks to boost ties, with Canberra embarking on a diplomatic charm offensive to counter China's expanding assertiveness in the Asia-Pacific region.

Anthony Albanese hailed relations with Indonesia and vowed to strengthen them on his first bilateral trip since being elected last month, choosing Southeast Asia's biggest economy as an early stop in what has become a tradition for new Australian premiers.

After a guard of honour, Indonesian President Joko Widodo

presented Albanese with a bicycle at the presidential palace in Bogor — a city south of capital Jakarta — where the pair removed their jackets, donned helmets and rode around the grounds.

“Australia's relationship with Indonesia is one of our most important. We are linked not just by geography, we are linked by choice,” Albanese said in a joint press conference held after talks.

“Our relationship is ever-deepened by the strategic and economic interests we share.”

Widodo said good relations between the two would contribute to “the peace and prosperity

of the region”.

Albanese confirmed he would attend the G20 summit, which Indonesia will host in November, despite reservations from predecessor Scott Morrison about sitting around the table with Russian President Vladimir Putin after his invasion of Ukraine.

The Labour leader spoke of advancing opportunities together on trade, climate change and regional security with Widodo, who last visited Australia in early 2020.

Indonesia favours a non-aligned position on the Pacific rivalry between Beijing and Western powers. —AFP

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Facts about Russia-Ukraine conflict: Moscow will “draw appropriate conclusions” if Washington supplies long-range missiles to Kyiv – Putin

The following are the latest developments in the conflict between Russia and Ukraine:

MOSCOW will “draw appropriate conclusions” and hit new targets if Washington delivers long-range missiles to Kyiv, Russian President Vladimir Putin said in an interview broadcast on Sunday.

“If they are handed over (to Kyiv), we will draw appropriate conclusions, and deploy our weapons to strike at the targets we haven't hit before,” Putin told the Rossiya-1 television channel.

Because “the Ukrainian army is armed with similar systems”, the transfer of such weapons to Kyiv does not change anything, but will only prolong the conflict, Putin added.

UKRAINIAN President Volodymyr Zelensky on Sunday visited the frontline positions of the Ukrainian military in the Zaporizhzhia region in the south of the country, the presidential

press service reported.

During the visit, Zelensky inspected the operational situation on the frontline and held talks with Ukrainian soldiers.

RUSSIAN forces have destroyed T-72 tanks and other armoured vehicles supplied by Eastern European countries near Kyiv, Russian Defence Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov said Sunday.



Firefighters intervene in a destroyed production depot of the Darnytsia freight cars repair plant, which was targeted early morning by Russian missile strikes in Kyiv, on 5 June 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

“High-precision, long-range air-based missiles of the Russian Aerospace Forces have destroyed T-72 tanks and other armoured vehicles, which were housed in the buildings of an auto repair facility on the outskirts of Kyiv,” Konashenkov told a briefing.

According to earlier reports, Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko said at least one person was injured in rocket strikes on Ukraine's capital Sunday morning. —Xinhua

Iran to face censure amid stalled nuclear talks



The sign of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is pictured in front of the headquarters, photographed in Vienna on 17 December 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

MAJOR European countries and the United States are expected to seek to censure Iran as the UN atomic watchdog started meeting on Monday amid stalled talks to revive the 2015 nuclear deal.

The resolution drafted by the United States, Britain, France and Germany is a sign of their growing impatience as diplomats warn the window to save the landmark deal is closing.

The International Atomic Energy Agency's Board of Governors meets Monday through Friday in Vienna.

If the resolution urging Iran to “cooperate fully” with

the IAEA is adopted, it will be the first motion censuring Iran since June 2020.

Talks to revive the accord started in April 2021 with the aim of bringing the United States back into the deal and lift sanctions again, and get Iran to scale back its stepped-up nuclear programme.

The 2015 landmark deal — promising Tehran sanctions relief in exchange for curbs in its nuclear programme — started to fall apart in 2018 when then US president Donald Trump withdrew from it.

Talks to revive the agreement have stalled in recent months. —AFP

S Korea, US fire missiles in response to N Korea tests

SOUTH Korea and the United States fired eight ballistic missiles on Monday in response to North Korean weapons tests the previous day, Seoul's military said.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff said the allies launched the ground-to-ground Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS) at targets in the East Sea, also known as the Sea of Japan, in the early morning.

The 10-minute volley comes a day after North Korea launched eight short-range ballistic missiles following a South Korea-US joint military exercise involving a US aircraft carrier.

"Our military strongly condemns the North's series of bal-

listic missile provocations and sternly urges it to immediately stop acts that raise military tensions on the peninsula," the Joint Chiefs of Staff added.

The US Indo-Pacific Command said one US army missile and seven South Korean missiles were fired from the northeast of South Korea during Monday's live-fire exercise, which was aimed at demonstrating their ability to "respond quickly to crisis events".

Monday's launches are the second such joint show of force by the allies under South Korea's hawkish new President Yoon Suk-yeol, who has vowed a tougher stance against Pyongyang.

"Our government will re-



This handout photo taken on 6 June 2022 and released by South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff via Yonhap news agency in Seoul shows the Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS) firing a missile from an undisclosed location on South Korea's east coast during a South Korea-US joint live-fire exercise aimed to counter North Korea's missile test. **PHOTO: HANDOUT / SOUTH KOREA'S JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF / AFP**

spond decisively and sternly to any provocations from North

Korea," Yoon said Monday during a speech on Memorial Day.

Last month, Seoul and Washington carried out combined launches after Pyongyang fired three ballistic missiles — including a suspected intercontinental ballistic missile — in their first such joint move since 2017.

Pyongyang has doubled down on upgrading its weapons programme, despite facing crippling economic sanctions, with officials and analysts warning that the regime is preparing to carry out a fresh nuclear test.

North Korea has carried out a blitz of sanctions-busting weapons tests this year, including firing an intercontinental ballistic missile at full range. —AFP

Cambodia's ruling party wins local elections by landslide



Voters gather at a polling station in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, for local elections on 5 June 2022. **PHOTO: KYODO**

CAMBODIA'S ruling party of Prime Minister Hun Sen won Sunday's local elections by a landslide.

Sok Eysan, a spokesman of the Cambodian People's Party told Kyodo News that prelim-

inary results suggested the CPP had obtained nearly 100 per cent of all the seats in 1,652 communes across the country.

He said the turnout stood at nearly 80 per cent of the 9.2 million registered voters, who

were to pick 11,622 councilors and chiefs in the fifth communal elections held every five years since 2002. The elections with more than 86,000 candidates running from 17 parties were seen as a bellwether for next year's lower house election.

The new opposition Candlelight Party's vice-president, Thach Setha, said it came second after the CPP and may secure around 2,000 councilor seats throughout the country.

The opposition party may win four of the commune chief contests nationwide, according to a senior CPP official. The Candlelight Party is dubbed as a "son" of the former Sam Rainsy Party, named after the opposition leader who is in self-exile in France. —Kyodo

At least 10 killed in four weekend shootings across US

UNITED States this weekend, as lawmakers struggle to respond to the country's long-running epidemic of gun violence.

The shootings came after a spate of mass killings that have sparked renewed calls for reform of the nation's gun laws.

An eruption of violence in Chattanooga, Tennessee on Sunday resulted in 14 people

being shot, including two killed, while another person died and two more were injured after they were struck by vehicles fleeing the scene, police chief Celeste Murphy said, adding "several" victims remained in critical condition.

The pre-dawn incident occurred near a nightclub.

In Philadelphia on Sat-

urday, two men and a woman were killed when multiple people opened fire on a crowd at a popular South Street nightlife area.

Philadelphia Police Commissioner Danielle Outlaw said one of the victims got into a fight with another man, which could have been the cause of the shooting. —AFP

Japan to subsidize municipalities promoting Tokyo Olympics legacy

JAPANESE municipalities that hosted overseas athletes for training camps before last summer's Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics will be eligible for new subsidies aimed at promoting people-to-people exchanges with their respective partner countries, sources familiar with the matter said Monday.

The Japan Sport Council will set up a subsidy programme to cover part of the expenses, such as those for inviting athletes from abroad, the sources said, adding the programme is due to begin in fiscal 2023 starting next April.

The Tokyo-headquartered council, which works closely with the education ministry

to advance sports activities, is expected to formally announce the launch of the initiative in the near future, they said. The launch is part of efforts to pass down the legacy of the Tokyo Games, which were largely held without spectators due to the coronavirus pandemic. The sources said the programme will be financed by sales from soccer lotteries.

Before the Olympics and Paralympics, 533 cities, towns and villages across Japan registered for an initiative led by the government to promote exchanges between them and participating foreign athletes as well as their home countries. —Kyodo



File photo shows Bulgarian gymnasts posing for a photo with cherries in hand at a fruit farm in Murayama, Yamagata, in June 2018. **PHOTO: KYODO**



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.

Yangon United draw against Shan United in friendly match



Yangon United player (red) tries to pass over the Shan United players (white) during their friendly match at Yangon United stadium on 4 June 2022. PHOTO: YUFC

YANGON United played a friendly match against Shan United at Yangon United Sports Complex on 4 June and the match was ended with a goalless result.

This was the third friendly match of Yangon United and they started the match with Phone Thitsa Min (GK), Thiha Htet Aung, Kyaw Phyto Wai, Hein Zeyar Lin, Min Kyaw Khant, Sithu Moe Khant, Yan Kyaw Soe, Lamin Htwe, and Saw Kyaw El. In 11 minutes, Lamin Ht-

we's close assist Saw Kyaw El trying to find a goal through the visitor's defenders. But his effort went slid to the goal post.

10 minutes later, Zwe Thet Paing attempted to drive to the net when the ball bounced from Saw Kyaw El. But the lad's effort was denied by the keeper.

Then corner kick was awarded to Yangon and hit by Lamin Htwe to the goal area where defender Hein Zeyar Lin was ready. But a close-range header from Hein Zeyar Lin went off the bar, and the first half was

a break with scoring nil.

In the second half, Sithu Moe Khant was substituted by Kyaw Min Oo, and in 53 minutes, the chance fell to Zwe Thet Paing, who tried to drive to the net but his effort was denied. Then Lamin Htwe passed the ball from the right side to Saw Kyaw El, but the visitor's keeper saved it well. Both sides were looking for a goal to break the deadlock, however, they were unable to find a way to score a single goal, and the match ended in scoring nil. — GNLM

Ronaldo steers Portugal past Switzerland, Spain held in Prague

CRISTIANO Ronaldo marshalled Portugal past Switzerland in the Nations League on Sunday as Gavi made history becoming Spain's youngest ever scorer.

Ronaldo scored two goals in four first half minutes and had a third ruled offside by VAR as Portugal crushed Switzerland 4-0 in Lisbon.

The Manchester United striker had set up William Carvalho for the opener with Joao Cancelo completing the rout to fire Portugal to the top of League A, Group 2, on goal difference from the Czech Republic.

In Prague, Jakub Pesek put the hosts in front before Gavi levelled with a low curling left-footer at the record age of 17 years and 304 days just before halftime.

Jan Kuchta had the Czechs

back in control with a delicate chip but Athletic Bilbao defender Inigo Martinez headed home in the final minute to salvage a 2-2 draw.

"It is wonderful to be able to say that we are disappointed to lose points against Spain," said Czech captain Tomas Soucek. —AFP



Portugal's forward Cristiano Ronaldo (R) celebrates with teammates after scoring a goal during the UEFA Nations League, league A group 2 football match between Portugal and Switzerland at the Jose Alvalade stadium in Lisbon on 5 June 2022. PHOTO: AFP

Japan suffer narrow defeat to Brazil on late penalty



Neymar (10) of Brazil scores a goal from a penalty kick in the second half of an international friendly against Japan held at the National Stadium in Tokyo on 6 June 2022, as a warm-up for the World Cup finals that begin in November in Qatar. PHOTO: KYODO

JAPAN went down 1-0 against Brazil in an international friendly Monday after Neymar scored a 77th-minute penalty for the dominant South Americans. Japan, 23rd in the FIFA rankings, had hung on until Wataru Endo was penalized for bringing down substitute Richarlison at a rainy National Stadium in Tokyo, with Neymar sending keeper Shuichi Gonda the wrong way.

The World Cup warmup was Japan's first international at the reconstructed National Stadium in Tokyo, which was filled by a crowd of 63,638. Japan, who were denied a late penalty appeal for substitute Kaoru Mitoma, remain without a win over world No. 1 Brazil, having now drawn two and lost 11 of their meetings at the senior level. —Kyodo